NEW YORK POST

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AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

James Keivom

Millions celebrate USA's 250th birthday

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LOTTERY

NEW YORK
- Midday Nos. Sat.: **536**
- Midday Win-4 Sat.: **7606**
- Midday Take-5 Sat.: **1, 24, 26, 27, 32**
- Evening Nos. Sat.: **489**
- Evening Win-4 Sat.: **2536**
- Evening Take-5 Sat.: **4, 13, 17, 21, 32**
- Lotto Sat.: **17, 22, 31, 42, 51, 59**; Bonus: **3**
- Pick-10 Sat.: **2, 4, 7, 14, 22, 23, 30, 35, 36, 39, 43, 48, 50, 60, 66, 69, 73, 75, 77, 78**
- Millionaire for Life Sat.: **17, 20, 37, 40, 43**; MB: **4**
- Powerball Sat.: **17, 38, 46, 50, 69**; PB: **20**; PP: **x2;** DP: **4, 19, 24, 25, 41;** PB: **9**

NEW JERSEY
- Pick-3 Sat.: **990;** Fireball: **7**
- Pick-4 Sat.: **2364;** Fireball: **7**
- Cash-5 Xtra Sat.: **7, 13, 18, 28, 43**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
- Play-3 Sat.: **177;** Wild: **4**
- Play-4 Sat.: **2891;** Wild: **3**
- Cash-5 Sat.: **1, 8, 16, 22, 32**

Red-white-blue signs for 9/11 heroes

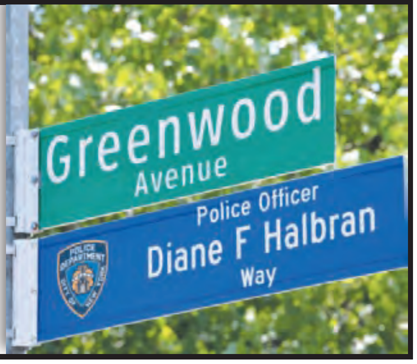
All first responders who died in or as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks will have modern red or blue street signs rolled out in their honor before the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11.

City Council Speaker Julie Menin (D-Manhattan) is using $90,000 of her discretionary funds to replace 269 standard green street signs hung shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, with the names of the fallen heroes, on the streets where they once lived.

Menin, a longtime advocate for 9/11 families, dipped into her funds at the request of Councilman Phil Wong (D-Queens), who first raised the sign issue during a council hearing in March.

Wong said one of his constituents, John Vannata, husband of late EMT hero Hilda Vannata, questioned the lack of consistency in the signs when his wife, who died of a 9/11-related illness, was honored in 2024 with a red sign. In recent years, the city began honoring police who died as a result of 911 with blue street signs, while firefighters and EMTs received red signs, Wong added.

Wong's office initially reached out to the city Department of Transportation to replace the old green signs, but turned to Menin and other council members after the DOT said it couldn't come up with the dough. *Rich Calder*



Paul Martinka

'Terror-promotion' group gets NY tax-$$

By RICH CALDER

ZUMA PRESS.com; Thrift4Gaza/Instagram

A Muslim nonprofit with strong ties to Mayor Mamdani was awarded $85,000 in taxpayer dough through the City Council, despite coming under fire in January for hosting a Brooklyn fundraiser featuring an array of trinkets promoting Hamas and other terrorist groups.

The Muslim American Society of Brooklyn and Staten Island received $70,000 in council "discretionary funds" from Democrat Kayla Santosuosso, whose Bay Ridge and southern Brooklyn district has a large Muslim population. The remaining $15,000 in political pork was dished out by Alexa Avilés (D-Brooklyn), whose Red Hook and Sunset Park district also has many Muslims.

The funds were awarded despite council Speaker Julie Menin's expression of shock in January upon learning of the terrorist swag that was being peddled by the nonprofit.

Menin (with Mamdani, above), the council's first Jewish speaker, told The Post at the time she would block $80,000 in funds — and potentially future funding — that had yet to be paid out to MAS pending an investigation by city lawyers.

Council spokesman Yoav Gonen said its Office of the General Counsel conducted an investigation and "found no affiliation" between the nonprofit and the vendor "that sold the controversial merchandise. The nonprofit's funding was restored after its leadership committed in writing to enhanced screening and prevention protocols for all future vendors using its space."

Councilwoman and staunch Zionist Inna Vernikov (R-Brooklyn) said "individual members get to decide what groups get their discretionary dollars, but funding nonprofits that appear to flat-out support designated terrorist organizations and spread radical, Jew-hating propaganda is far beyond the pale and potentially illegal."

Must explain

"These members must explain to the public why their taxpayer dollars should be given to America-hating jihadis, rather than so many other groups who have a legitimate purpose."

During the MAS New York chapter's Jan. 18 support-Sudan event, vendors peddled keychains, stickers and pins (inset, left) supporting Hamas, Hezbollah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Merchandise also included slogans like "Let's go bomb Tel Aviv" and "Death to the IDF," The Times of Israel reported.

MAS-NY officials Sherif Ahmed and Hannah Towfeik were part of Mamdani's transition team that helped fill key City Hall posts.

Team Zo's $2B 'Marxist' housing grab

The nonprofit founded by Mayor Mamdani's radical tenant advocate, Cea Weaver, is pushing a Marxist scheme that will use more than $2 billion in taxpayer dough to "take housing off landlords' hands."

The New York State Tenant Bloc, which Weaver helmed until joining Mamdani's administration in January, said it wants to deploy the newly approved taxpayer funds to allow tenant-backed groups to take over rent-stabilized units.

"If landlords can't maintain their buildings, tenants will," the group declared Monday on X. "The Mayor's Housing Plan directs $2.2 billion to taking housing off their hands."

But Jay Martin, executive vice president of the New York Apartment Association, told The Post: "The tenant groups essentially are looking at that $2.2 billion as a slush fund to buy these buildings."

A City Hall spokesperson told The Post: "Preservation programs are a core pillar of any serious housing strategy ... This administration is investing in the long-term health of our housing stock, including the purchase of distressed buildings where necessary, so tenants are not left at the mercy of neglect or speculation."

Gabrielle Fahmy

Stephen Yang

Patriotic B'klyn beauties

Bea Tagliafierro (left) and Vicki Mellani, both 20, are hot, hot and HOT on the sands of Coney Island Saturday, joining hundreds of thousands of fellow New Yorkers amid another day of blistering temps.

'DOG & CONEY SHOW

Chestnut's 18th win

By ANGELA BARBUTI,
KATHERINE DONLEVY
and SOFIA POZNANSKY

He's top dog for a reason.

Joey "Jaws" Chestnut gobbled his way to victory once again at the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest Saturday in Coney Island, scarfing down 66 wieners and buns in a dominant performance he said was hampered only by the scorching temps.

"Eating here on the Fourth of July is a dream; it's electric. There's no place better on Earth," said Chestnut, wearing a gaudy, bejeweled Polymarket necklace, for the sports betting company, around his neck.

The win earned Chestnut, 41, his record 18th coveted Mustard Yellow Belt — the Stanley Cup to competitive eaters — and $10,000. It was his second consecutive title.

On the women's side, Florida mom Miki Sudo captured her 12th championship belt by scarfing down a gut-busting 38.75 wieners.

The temperature at the start of the men's contest after noon was 90 degrees, and Chestnut (inset) admitted the weather took a toll on his high-octane eating.

"It's definitely hard. I didn't want to go into it saying it's going to affect me, I wanna go into it and convince myself that I can work through it," he said.

Reuters

"I didn't want to let it bother me. I didn't want to push it because if I push it, then things will get stuck in my throat and then I just needed to stay calm and keep going."

After his win, Chestnut told The Post he still had room for dessert.

"I usually don't have this much spare room left over, but we'll see — something cold," he said.

Chestnut, who has won 18 times out of 21 appearances at the internationally televised event, crushed second-place finisher, Patrick Bertoletti, 41 — the 2024 winner — who ate 51 hot dogs, but was well shy of his own 2021 record of 76 wieners and buns.

"Today was not the day to lose, just to be honest. You know, we've got the broadcast with America 250 on ABC. It is America 250, so there's that added celebration — extra eyes on us," Sudo, 40, told The Post.

"I didn't want to lose."

THE SAIL OF THE

Crowds line NY Harbor for historic event

Getty Images

By ANTHONY BLAIR,
SHANE GALVIN
and KATHERINE DONLEVY

America celebrated its 250th anniversary Saturday with an epic armada of tall ships in New York Harbor and a parade of fighter jets overhead, as millions lined every inch of shoreline to take in the stunning showcase of military might and international alliances.

The roughly 45 tall ships from across the globe — with their majestic masts, rigging and white sails unfurled — traveled around the Statue of Liberty and up the Hudson River and were followed by an awesome show of aerial dominance that included a B-52 Stratofortress and a B-2 bomber.

Patrouille de France, the elite acrobatics demonstration unit of the French Air and Space Force, left a perfect July 4th impression — a trail of red, white and blue smoke that lingered in the sky like a monumental American flag.

"I think everybody needs to remember how we got here and what this day means," said Judy Dur of Florida, who flew in with her husband, Philip, a retired Navy rear admiral, to witness the Sail4th 250 event.

The US and more than 20 other nations sent military aircraft, tall ships and naval vessels for the historic gathering.

"I think it's a good reminder of what everybody's sacrificed to get us to where we are today," Dur added.

Brooklyn Bridge fire

Meanwhile, flames erupted on a temporary fireworks launch platform on the Brooklyn Bridge Saturday night during Macy's Fourth of July display over the East River.

Video shows a plume of smoke emerging from a flaming section as fireworks soar and burst around it. Two other sections also appeared to burn as the pyrotechnics were being shot.

All the fires burned out after a minute, The Post observed.

Sources described the fires as "minor" and said the "bridge remains safe and structurally sound."

During the daytime sail, the host flagship was the USCGC Eagle, a 295-foot, three-masted barque operated by the US Coast Guard, while the US Navy Blue Angels led the international aerial review, which included about 200 aircraft.

There were more than 30 naval vessels too, pushing the total number of ships in the nautical parade to around 80.

The famed, nuclear-powered, 1,092-feet-long USS Nimitz was anchored in New York Harbor as the breathtaking centerpiece to the Sail4th250 International Naval Review.

An estimated 20,000 sailors, 10 times the number that visit during an average New York City Fleet Week, participated in the event, according to Sail4th.

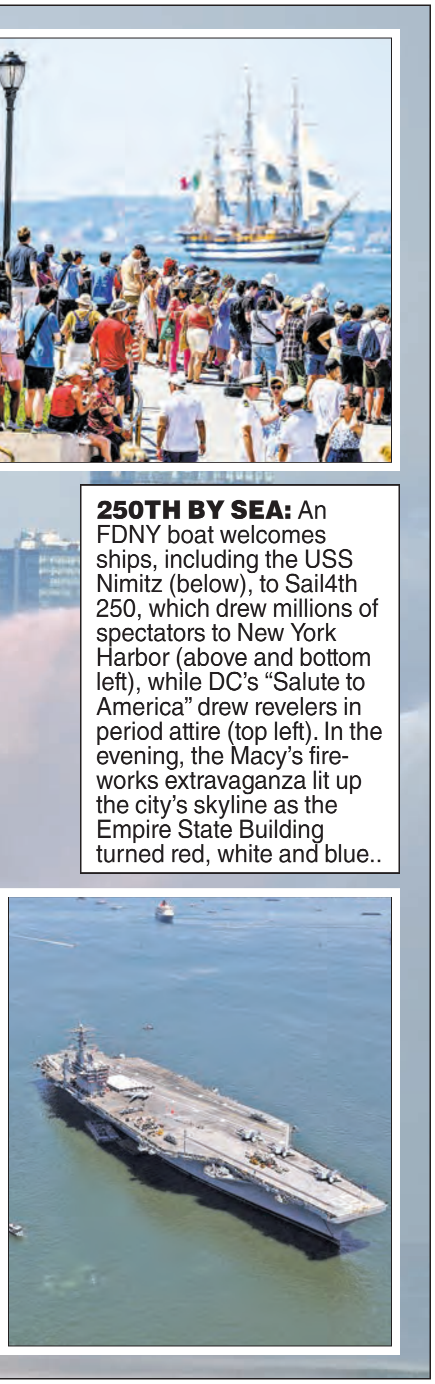
Americans flew in from across the country to be part of the patriotic procession that stretched from Staten Island's Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge to the George Washington Bridge upper Manhattan, undeterred by scorching temperatures that hit a high of 95.

A Texas couple told The Post they jumped at the chance to spent $1,400 for a pair of tickets to get aboard schooner America 2.0 for Sail4th 250.

"It means a lot. It was really special. I had been following this for about four or five months and reading about it and checking out different cities where I wanted to spend July 4th because of the 250th birthday," said Debbie Nicks, 73, a former school principal who traveled from Beaumont with husband Bob to be part of the extravaganza.

"We thought that this would be really special to celebrate the 250th. We know we won't be around for the 300th, so we thought we'd give it our best

2½ CENTURIES



250TH BY SEA: An FDNY boat welcomes ships, including the USS Nimitz (below), to Sail4th 250, which drew millions of spectators to New York Harbor (above and bottom left), while DC's "Salute to America" drew revelers in period attire (top left). In the evening, the Macy's fireworks extravaganza lit up the city's skyline as the Empire State Building turned red, white and blue..

Reuters; Upi / Shutterstock

Don hails old (& new) glory

Slams 'communists'

By EMILY GOODIN
and ALLY GOELZ

WASHINGTON — President Trump marked the 250th birthday of the United States with a speech paying tribute to the "glory" of America while vowing to protect it from the "cancer" of communism.

"For 250 years, the United States of America has been the hope, the promise, the light and the glory among all of the nations of the world, all over the world. They try and be like us. Nobody can be like us," he said Saturday to a cheering crowd of more than 150,000 people on the National Mall, who braved a thunderstorm-forced evacuation to hear the president's speak in the 11 p.m. hour.

Amid boasts of the country's triumphs — highlighted by the recognition of Medal of Honor winners, the presentation of American flags from important military battles and the astronauts of Artemis II appearing on stage — Trump warned about the threat of the far left.

"America will never be a communist country — won't happen," he vowed. "Communism is a loser, and it always will be.

"All these talks from the communists, they haven't got a chance," claimed Trump in response to candidates backed by the Democratic Socialists of America triumphing in Democratic primaries this cycle.

"We don't want communists in our country," he added.

Trump reiterated his warnings from a speech one day earlier at Mount Rushmore, a sign he plans to hammer the issue throughout the midterms.

"We like to stop a threat like that immediately," he said, describing communism as "like a cancer. You got to cut it out, you got to cut it out fast."

The president started his remarks one hour and 45 minutes late after severe weather forced organizers to evacuate the Mall shortly after 7 p.m. Many sought shelter in nearby federal buildings and rushed to make it back through screening in time to hear the president.

Trump concluded with an optimistic vision of the future, proclaiming that "at 250 years, we may be the oldest constitutional republic on earth, but our country is just getting started, because the best is yet to come."

Vance: *United* in greatness

Vice President JD Vance targeted the "loud voices" who drag down America as he called for unity over divisive rhetoric a day after Mayor Mamdani delivered a tone-deaf, anti-US screed.

"Everything that we have done as a country, we have done together, not as citizens divided against each other, but as a common people working towards a common future," Vance said Saturday aboard the USS Kearsarge during Sail4th 250 in the New York Harbor.

"You will hear a couple of small but loud voices today speak obsessively, not of our national greatness, but of our national imperfections," he said. "Reject the view of your nation that sees only its sins."

The comments were an apparent swipe at Mamdani, who was critical of the US on Friday.

"Patriotism has never been about pretending our nation is without flaws," he said from George Washington's desk at City Hall. "Patriotism is every act of righteous dissent, it is every march led under the heavy sun, it is every protest held a decade before its time." *Anthony Blair*

effort," she added.

Bill Dexter, a Vietnam veteran in his 70s sporting a long beard and boater hat, was glad to see the military — and vets — take the spotlight.

"I'm grateful to be an American, to live in a country that has provided me with so much . . . and to be here and be part of this is very special," he said.

"I like the respect shown to veterans. When we came back from Vietnam, we got no respect. But then we are seeing respect, and rightfully so. It's about time."

Few hiccups

The event went off without major hiccups, save for a boat that violated a ban on political messages. The Hudson River Sloop Clearwater unfurled a message to "Save the Clean Water Act" on its mainsail — and was escorted from the historic flotilla by the Coast Guard before it could even reach New York Harbor.

Organizers initially estimated crowd totals as high as 8 million, smashing the record crowd of 6 million for Operation Sail, the bicentennial regatta in 1976.

Officials remained confident that millions came out, despite "unexpected challenges" including Friday's storms and Saturday's high temps.

"We think it was a tremendous success. It all came together beautifully," Sail4th 250 spokesperson Peter Himler told The Post.

Seattle-based Navy Reserve Officer Ben Brown, taking in the boat parade and air show from Battery Park City's Wagner Park, said he was shocked at how many people had stopped to take photos with him in his uniform.

"I was kind of surprised . . . Coming from Seattle, the flavor is a little different sometimes," Brown, who was wearing his Navy whites, told The Post.

"It's nice to see everybody is still excited about the country."

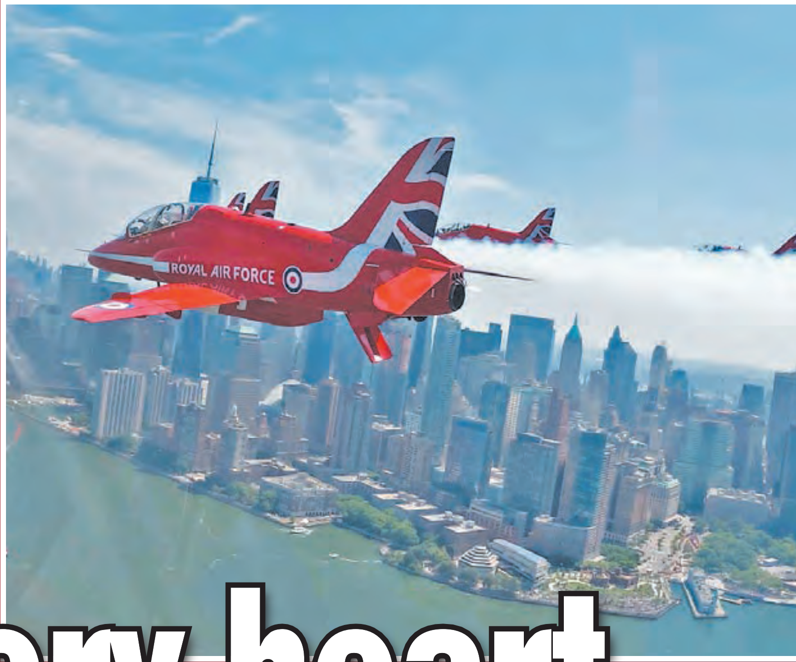
Additional reporting by Marie Pohl, David DeTurris and Georgett Roberts

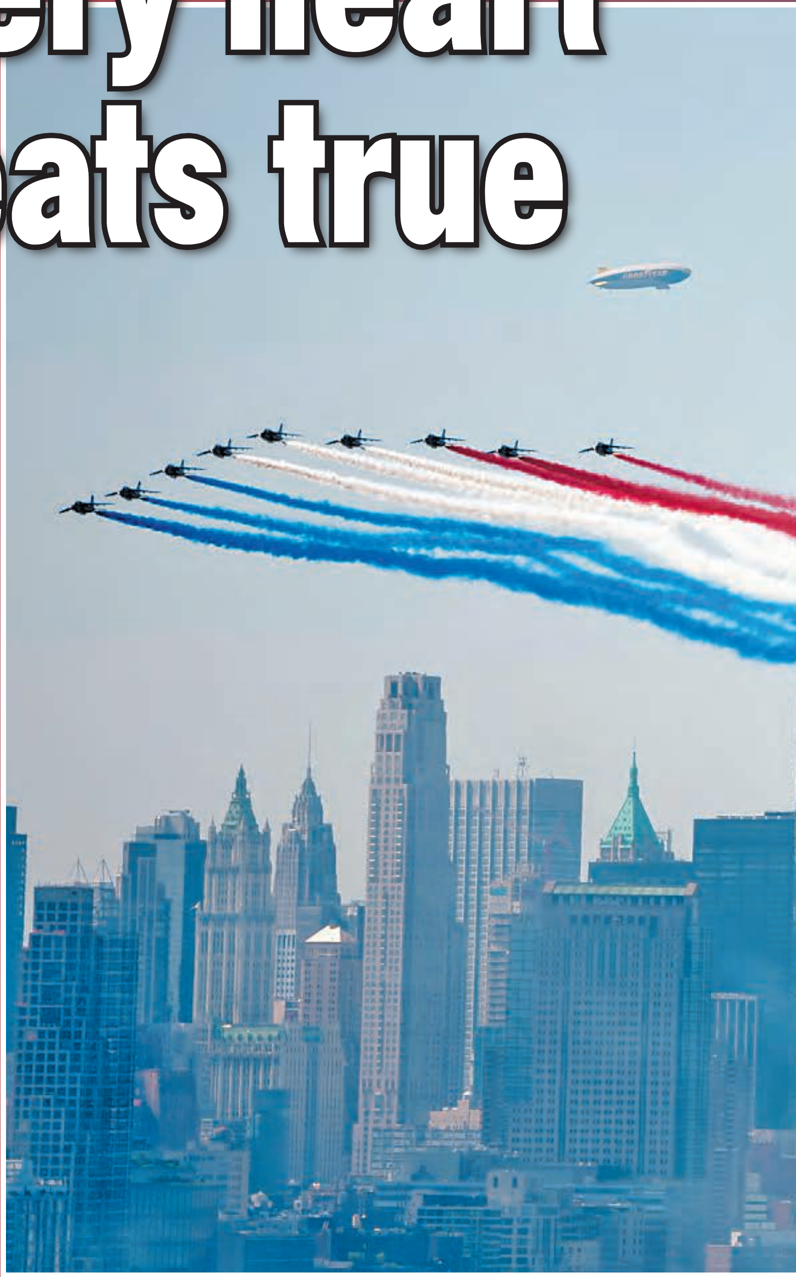
Every heart beats true

We The People
USA

Despite the heat in DC, revelers donned patriotic garb while some carried a giant Constitution during the "We The People 250" march, ahead of fireworks over the Capitol.

FIGHTIN' PHILS


ROYAL AIR FORCE



The Royal Air Force's Aerobatic Team could be seen over the city skyline. French air force jets left red, white and blue trails while passing the Freedom Tower.

AP; Reuters; UK MoD/Crown; Getty Images (4)

MRS. MAM LEAVES COUNTRY

US hater in 'retreat'

By RICH CALDER, TINA MOORE
and ADRY TORRES

Mayor Mamdani's wife, Rama Duwaji, ditched America's 250th anniversary, jetting off this week for an Islamic "spiritual wellness" retreat on the Spanish resort island of Mallorca ahead of the patriotic celebration, The Post has learned.

The Dallas-raised, Dubai-educated, Syrian American artist — who has a long history of bashing the US — was spotted at Newark International Airport on Monday, boarding an eight-hour flight to Palma, Mallorca's capital city.

She was heading to a sold-out retreat run by The Women's Sanctuary. The 29-year-old illustrator and ceramist is the for-profit's "artist in residence" and among the gathering's hosts.

The "Plants Of The Quran" retreat costs $3,400 for guests. It began Wednesday and runs through Monday, and revolves around sacred flora mentioned in Islamic texts through art, botanical workshops and spiritual reflection, according to the group's website.

Duwaji is then scheduled to help host another sold-out retreat for The Women's Sanctuary in Corsica, France, July 9-14, titled, "Mary In The Quran."

Conservative commentator and comedian Arynne Wexler posted photos Friday on X of Hizzoner's wife sitting at a United Airlines gate waiting to board her flight and wrote: "Funny how when @ZohranKMamdani was telling New Yorkers to lower their AC his wife Rama Duwaji was boarding a flight to party in Mallorca."

"Reminder that I can't tag her because she deleted her account after her insanely offensive tweets were discovered. Champagne socialists," added Wexler, referring to racist, homophobic and other controversial comments the first lady made over a decade ago.

'Hatred evident'

A friend of Wexler's was on Duwaji's flight, took the photos and shared them with Wexler, who posted them on X "to make sure people were aware," Wexler's publicist told The Post.

Critics on Saturday ripped the first lady of America's largest city for blowing off the historic birthday bash in Gotham.

"Nothing says 'America 250' quite like skipping the celebration for a Mediterranean vacation, but I am not surprised because she has made her hatred for America very evident," ripped Councilwoman Joann Ariola (R-Queens).

"It's disappointing that the First Lady chose to be overseas instead of taking part in one of the biggest civic events our city and country will mark this year," said Councilman Frank Morano (R-Staten Island). "No one is saying elected officials and their families can't take vacations, but this was a moment to show up for the city and for the country, and she missed it."

No NYPD detail

The Mayor's Office declined to address the criticism but said Duwaji was not accompanied on her trip by the couple's taxpayer-funded NYPD detail.

Mayor Mamdani has claimed his wife shouldn't face scrutiny over her social media activity because she holds no formal position in his administration.

Duwaji has since apologized for many of her past posts.

His participation in the America 250 celebration included decrying capitalism and the country's involvement in foreign wars during a 15-minute address Friday from City Hall while sitting at George Washington's former desk.

On Saturday, he attended the Sail4th 250 International Parade of Sail on Governors Island.

Additional reporting by Larry Celona

‘HULL’ OF A U.S. PARTY

Sail 4th 250
KATHERINE

By KATHERINE DONLEVY

How could you not be patriotic?

It was impossible not to count my lucky stars like the billowing white sails that dotted the New York Harbor Saturday as the globe converged in the greatest city in the world to celebrate the greatest country in the world.

I had the honor and privilege to sail along with the largest flotilla in history — and as dozens of fighter jets swirled in the skies — as part of America’s blockbuster 250th birthday.

I sat aboard the America 2.0, a schooner named for the winner of the first America’s Cup in 1851 and which typically ferries day sailors on scenic views of the Hudson.

The ship was tapped to escort Sweden’s GLADAN for the special occasion. We sailed in step with the 129-foot-ship as its naval recruits climbed up the sails and manned the masts with open arms in an international signal of peace — a position they held well after we soared beneath the Verrazano Bridge.

We were flanked by international warships as we sliced through the stunning green waters and had a front view as Vice President JD Vance took off from the USS Kearsarge — where he passionately reflected that “Everything that we have done as a country, we have done together.”

Thinking of the past

My fellow sailors and I couldn’t help but grow teary-eyed as the International Aerial Review soared above our heads, with the Blue Angels leaving a trail of red, white and blue clouds in its wake.

As we marched past Brooklyn, Staten Island and up beside Manhattan, I couldn’t help but think about what this channel looked like 250 years ago — before our coastlines became the iconic skyline.

When George Washington’s rebel army fortified the New York Harbor at the outset of the Revolutionary War, igniting the year-long period of the war that patriots had control of Manhattan.

When Washington returned several years later in a parade of sails celebrating his recent election as the first US president.

When the concrete jungle was a lush and forested jewel of the Lenape — thousands of years before Henry Hudson sailed through the river and claimed it for himself.

And I couldn’t help but think of how I was tracing the same voyage through the Harbor that my great-grandmother made as a teenager in 1900, when she left Ireland for a better life.

I thought of my grandmother who left Australia for love, of my FDNY hero father and uncles who risked their lives on 9/11 to save their neighbors, of my mother who gave her five kids everything she had.

And how so many of my neighbors have stories just like ours.

There’s a reason the biggest, most impressive and momentous celebration for the USA took place in New York City. And there’s a reason dozens of countries came to the Big Apple to celebrate our milestone with us.

And how lucky does that make us?

Salute from Zelensky

Even countries locked in a bloody war took a moment to cozy up to the US on its 250th birthday.

Among world leaders who posted notes of gratitude Saturday was Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who compared America’s fight for independence to his country’s battle for survival against Russia.

Ukrainians were fighting for “our people’s right to happiness with much the same hope, the same purpose, and the same determination with which Americans won and defended their own independence,” he said.

Zelensky, who endured a tense Oval Office standoff with President Trump last year, thanked him for American “Patriots” — the missiles that fend off Russian missile and drone attacks. *Geoff Earle*

Redcoat reconsidered

He’s turning coat.

Canadian David Bonin, 58, told The Post his ancestors fought in the American Revolution for the British — but seeing the July 4 celebrations has convinced him they were wrong.

“I think we should have followed the US and ousted the British,” said the Montreal native, after explaining he could trace his lineage back to British Loyalists based in Niagara Falls during the Revolution.

Bonin admitted he had never been to the US for July 4, but wanted to come and watch the country celebrate its independence.

He drove down from Montreal Friday night, parking his car in Westchester’s Sleepy Hollow before taking the train to the city to watch Sail4th 250. *David DeTurris*

Epic fleet sails Harbor with fighter jets above

hey, I'm worth more than one drink.

A 'YACHT' TO BE PROUD OF: The Post's Katherine Donlevy (far left) rode on the America 2.0 schooner (below) as it sailed New York Harbor with a historically large flotilla (above), including warships and historic vessels like the Amerigo Vespucci (left). The experience left Donlevy reflecting on her pride in being an American.

Aristide Economopoulos for NY Post

Proud NYers: Hooray for big 2-5-OH!

An overwhelming majority of city residents are proud to be an American, a new poll found as the nation celebrates its 250th birthday.

While the Empire State has long been regarded by some as one of the least patriotic states, the Honan Strategy Group poll revealed that 68% of Big Apple respondents said they are proud to call the United States their home.

Just 21% expressed anti-American sentiments.

Though a majority of those polled bleed red, white and blue, many believe the US is in trouble.

Of the city dwellers surveyed, 43% think the country is in a "serious decline" and 62% are pessimistic about its future over the next 10 years.

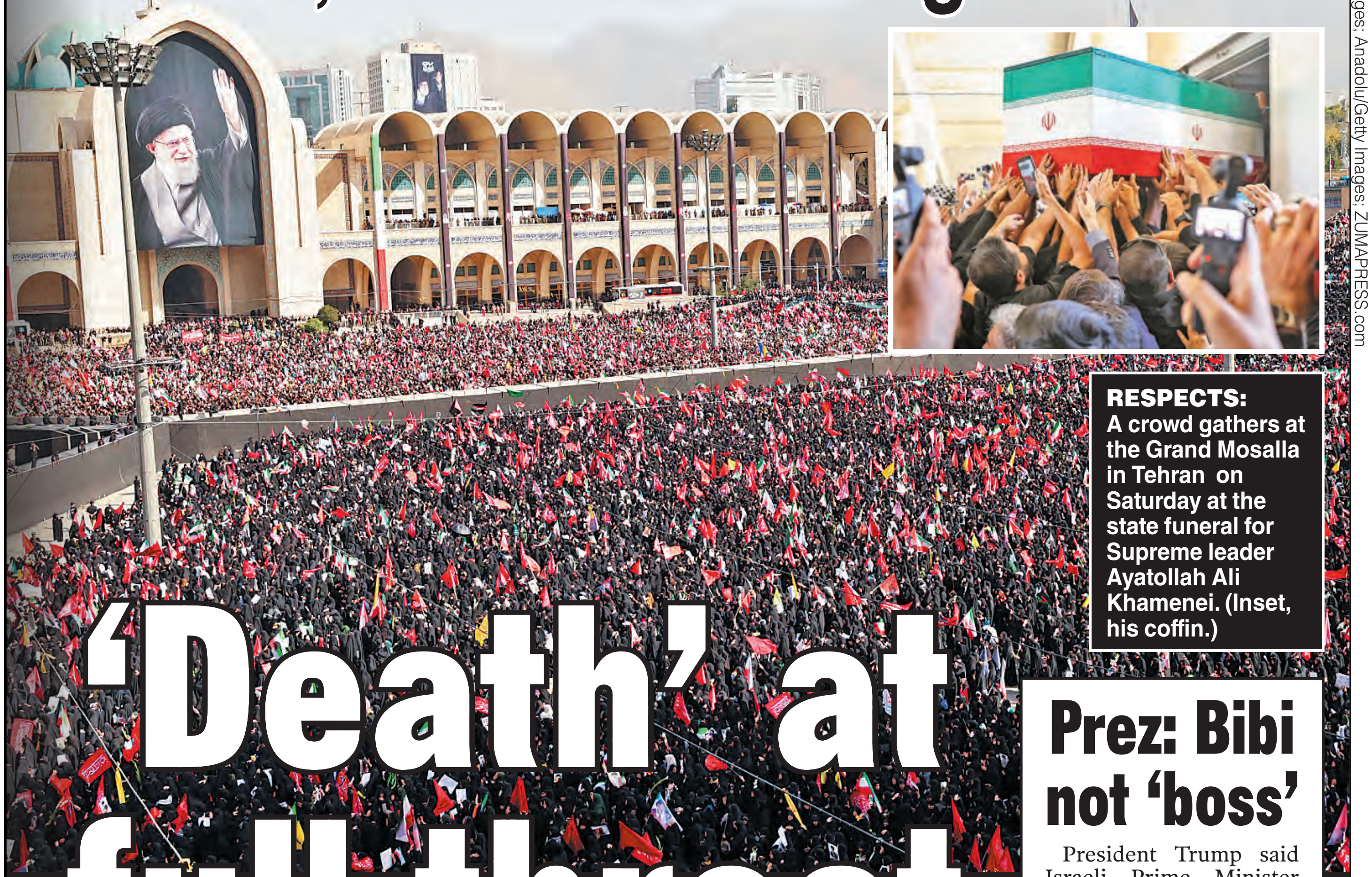
Thirty percent said America has dire issues but they can be fixed, according to the poll.

Only 19% of respondents believe the United States is the greatest nation in the world — even though 55% said they were thrilled for the America 250 celebrations in New York City.

"New Yorkers aren't anti-American. They're alarmed about America. That's a very different thing and it's the mood heading into July 4," Bradley Honan, the group's CEO, told The Post.

New York's complicated relationship with patriotism is nothing new. The state is the second-least-patriotic state in the country, according to a WalletHub survey from June. *Sonya Gugliara*

Anti-US, Israel chants ring at funeral



RESPECTS: A crowd gathers at the Grand Mosalla in Tehran on Saturday at the state funeral for Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. (Inset, his coffin.)

AFP/Getty Images; Anadolu/Getty Images; ZUMAPRESS.com

‘Death’ at full throat

By GEOFF EARLE
and NICHOLAS McENTYRE

Throngs of Iranians chanted “Death to America!” in the streets of Tehran on Saturday as they commemorated the late Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, who was killed in a US-Israeli strike in February.

As millions of Americans gathered to celebrate the USA’s 250th birthday, millions of Iranians were expected to gather for the beginning of the ayatollah’s dayslong mourning period.

Angry mourners held signs calling for President Trump’s assassination and demanding retribution as they kicked off the state funeral for the slain 89-year-old at the Grand Mosalla in the Iranian capital.

“Our word is one. Revenge! Revenge!” some in attendance shouted. Ferocious chants of “Death to America!” and “Death to Israel!” also rang out at the holy house.

Body was hidden

Khamenei’s body, hidden since he was killed in the Feb. 28 airstrikes on his compound in Tehran, was held in a casket decorated with the Iranian flag and placed inside a glass box.

A black turban was placed on top to identify him as a direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad.

Accompanying Khamenei on stage were the caskets of his daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law and 14-month-old granddaughter, all of whom also were killed in the airstrike.

Khamenei’s son, newly anointed Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, was not in attendance.

Iranian authorities are expecting as many as 10 million to 15 million people to take part in the multiday memorial ceremonies honoring Khamenei.

Officials who were “afraid and weak” delayed services for months due to security concerns, experts said.

The ceremonies coincide with July Fourth celebrations in the US and amid the fragile peace talks over a deal to end the 109-day Iran war.

State funeral services were set to begin in the prayer hall of Imam Khomenei, the founder of the Islamic Republic in 1979, before a funeral procession will leave Monday. Dozens died in stampedes at Khomenei’s 1989 funeral, where as many as 10 million people gathered.

Iranian authorities are prepared for as many as 3,000 people to die during the weeklong ceremony, according to German newspaper Die Welt

With Wires

Prez: Bibi not ‘boss’

President Trump said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “knows who the boss is” ahead of their planned tete-a-tete in Washington, DC.

Trump told Axios on Saturday that Netanyahu could visit the White House as early as this week and said that the relationship between the two leaders is still strong.

The powwow could happen after Trump returns from the NATO summit in Turkey, which takes place Tuesday and Wednesday. *David Spector*

Son barred from rites

Iran’s “probably gay” and badly disfigured new supreme leader has reportedly been barred from showing up at his own father’s funeral.

Mojtaba Khamenei asked to perform rites over Ali Khamenei’s dead body, when the late ayatollah is set to be buried in his hometown of Mashhad on Thursday wrapping up the days-long state funeral.

But security officials told him no deal, according to two members of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps who spoke to The New York Times.

Khamenei’s security team reportedly believes Israel would try to assassinate him if he shows his face in public, or at least track him down to his ultra-secret hideout.*Gabrielle Fahmy*

Don gives Iran ‘week off’

President Trump announced he was giving Iran “the week off,” as the Islamic Republic buries its slain supreme leader in a dayslong procession that is expected to turn out as many as 10 million to 15 million people.

“We knocked the hell out of Iran and they’re dying to settle,” Trump said during a speech at Mount Rushmore on Friday on the eve of America’s 250th anniversary.

“They want to settle so badly.”

“We gave them a week off for a funeral, isn’t that nice,” he added.

Negotiations between the two countries are now set to resume in Pakistan on July 11, sources told the Saudi-owned Al Arabiya news network Saturday.

Gabrielle Fahmy, Wires

MARINONI & NIXON
Job for lefty actress' wife.

Sex and the city DOE job

The Mamdani patronage machine hired the wife of lefty actress Cynthia Nixon as an educrat making $203,500 a year, The Post learned.

Christine Marinoni is working as the chief of mass engagement at the Family and Community Empowerment office at the Department of Education, according to a well-placed DOE source.

The insider said this was Mamdani's reward to the "Sex and the City" star after she endorsed him during the mayoral primary.

Nixon held a fundraiser for Mamdani in March 2025 and raised over $200,000 for the socialist mayoral upstart.

"It's painfully fitting that inside Tweed Courthouse, a DSA machine reminiscent of Tammany Hall is handing taxpayer-funded jobs to the well-connected spouses of multimillionaire celebrities," a City Hall insider said.

When reached, Nixon denied that her wife was rehired for political reasons, and declined to speak further.

Marinoni, who previously worked as special assistant to the chancellor during the de Blasio administration and made $131,708 per public data, could not be reached for comment.

David Spector

Axed 'pay me' intern born into money

'POOR' LITTLE LEFTY

X/minafarahmand05

WORKING-CLASS HERO: Fired City Council intern and DSA devotee Mina Farahmand grew up in a six-bedroom home on 30 acres in Colville, Wash.

By RICH CALDER

A 21-year-old socialist and unpaid former City Council intern who claimed she was axed after demanding she and her peers get paid $32 an hour with full health benefits — and plans to sue the Council — was born into wealth.

Mina Farahmand — who willingly interned for free last year to help get fellow silver-spoon socialist Zohran Mamdani elected mayor — is a prominent surgeon's daughter who grew up in a palatial six-bedroom, 4½-bathroom home on 30 acres in Colville, Wash.

Her father, Mehrdad Farahmand, is a general-surgery specialist at Providence, the largest health-care provider in Washington State. Although his salary is not public, a current job posting for a general surgeon at Providence offers $457,269 to $555,423 per year.

The elder Farahmand also owns a vacant 5½-acre lot about 10 miles away in nearby Kettle Falls, Wash., bringing his total property portfolio to nearly $1 million.

Mina Farahmand made national headlines last month after being fired from an unpaid post as a legislative intern for Councilman Harvey Epstein (D-Manhattan).

DSA member

The recent New York University graduate and card-carrying member of the Democratic Socialists of America claimed she was terminated as retaliation for spearheading a petition campaign demanding Council Speaker Julie Menin set up a fund to pay all Council interns "a living wage" of $32 hourly — nearly double NYC's existing minimum wage of $17 an hour — plus health benefits.

Critics blasted the money move by the Gen Zer dripping with generational wealth.

"This is just another nepo baby agitator who signed up for an unpaid internship, then demanded to be paid after the fact," said former Councilman Robert Holden, a moderate Democrat, upon learning of Farahmand's affluent upbringing.

"We don't need activists looking to create controversy. We need people who understand that public service starts with honoring the commitment you made."

Farahmand's internship started May 19 and was supposed to run through July.

Epstein insisted to City & State last week that his former intern was not canned over her organizing efforts and that the decision was instead "performance related."

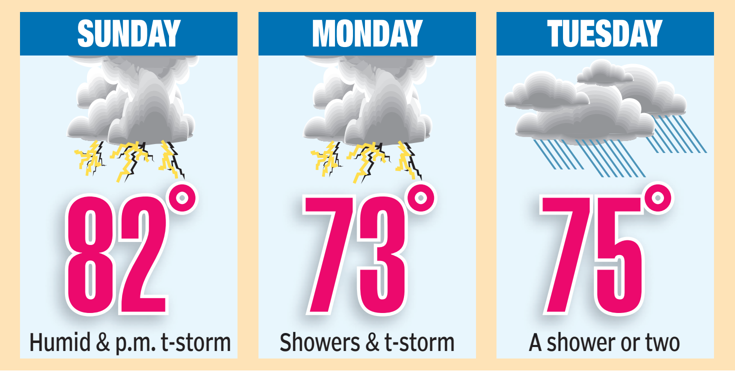
Farahmand on Tuesday vowed that she and other interns who signed the petition would sue the Council after it approved a new city budget that didn't include funds to meet their pay demands.

"NYC Council's budget . . . confirms they believe Council interns deserve to be unpaid," Farahmand said on X. "We've already told them how we've gone hungry. Now we're suing them for wages."

Although some Council interns are paid, others work strictly for college credit.

Menin, who declined to comment, has previously said she has always paid her interns and that determining intern pay is up to each Council member.

Farahmand said: "We are suing the City of New York for wages because all interns deserve to be paid, and virtually all New York City Council unpaid internships, including mine, are illegal under the primary beneficiary test in the Fair Labor Standards Act."



Storms KO power in NY, NJ

It's the storm before the calm.

Ferocious heat-fed thunderstorms packing winds of 60 mph slammed the metro area Friday night, downing trees and power lines, and leaving hundreds of thousands blacked out. But the scorching heat wave will finally break by Sunday.

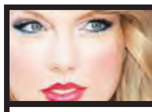
The bad news is cooling air could trigger more storms.

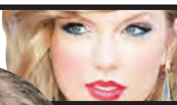
On Friday, New Jersey's Morris and Monmouth Counties were hit hardest, with Roxbury Township police reporting trees had fallen on houses and cars, even trapping residents, according to Patch.

More than 230,000 customers were without power in the Garden State Saturday morning. Nearly 10,000 customers in southwest Queens had their electricity shut off by Con Edison after an underground cable malfunctioned because of high power demand, NBC reported.

Saturday's temps approached 100 degrees, but nighttime temperatures were expected to drop to the 70s.

Angela Barbuti





Styles 'Ghosts' the nups

Coincidence?

Harry Styles performed a Taylor Swift-inspired breakup song hours before her Madison Square Garden wedding to Travis Kelce.

Styles took to the stage at Wembley Stadium in London on Friday for the latest stop of his "Together, Together" tour.

A fan video shows he began singing his 2017 hit "Two Ghosts," which has been widely speculated to be about his 2013 breakup with the pop star.

Styles sang the song's chorus a cappella to the screaming crowd — though it is the verse that makes fans believe that the lyrics were written about Swift.

In the song, Styles laments, "Same lips red, same eyes blue / Same white shirt, couple more tattoos."

Those lines are considered a direct callback to Swift's 2014 track "Style," which references a "red lip classic thing" and a "white T-shirt."

Styles and Swift, notably, had a short-lived romance from 2012 to 2013. Despite the relationship only lasting three months, several iconic Swift songs came out of the split including "Style," "Out of the Woods" and "I Knew You Were Trouble."

Jolie Zenna

Pair's royal rendezvous

Prince William and Kate Middleton were a no-show at Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding — but met up with the bride and groom ahead of the ceremony.

The royals secretly linked up with the couple, likely when the Grammy-winner and NFL player, both 36, were in London in May, People reported on Saturday.

Kelce hinted at the meet-up in Friday's surprise "New Heights" podcast episode with the Prince of Wales.

"I got the chance to see you not too long ago," he said. "[I] invited you on the show because we were talking a little Aston Villa soccer, some excitement about the World Cup."

Riley Cardoza

MRS. AMERICA

Janet Mayer / SplashNews.com

Inside the wedding of the century

By TIM McGOVERN, TERESA ROCA and CARLOS GREER

It was the wedding of an "Era."

Taylor Swift and **Travis Kelce**'s Friday nuptials were spectacular, intricately planned and intensely moving, according to details that began to leak out Saturday.

Swift's proud aunt, **Robin Gentry**, couldn't wait to spill the beans from the couple's special night. She told LBC News that Swift and Kelce "cried, and they laughed, and they danced, and they hugged, and they kissed."

Gentry was tight-lipped for follow-up questions, but confirmed there was "lots" of food and the wedding cake was a big hit.

Every Hollywood A-lister packed Madison Square Garden to watch the newlyweds exchange vows, including **Jennifer Lopez**, **Hugh Grant**, **Gigi Hadid** and **Bradley Cooper**. "Good Morning America" anchors **Robin Roberts**, **George Stephanopoulos** and **Michael Strahan** even made the list, and the ABC morning-show crew shared details from the "intimate" affair during their holiday broadcast.

'Deeply loving'

"The vows were everything you would hope for. Real, vulnerable, serious and silly, deeply loving," Stephanopoulos said.

Roberts described the scene as "really intimate" because — among the more than 1,000 guests — "they had their neighbors, their high school friends . . . like any wedding you would attend."

Stephanopoulos gushed it was "a garden inside the Garden" and added it was "as intimate as it could possibly be given that it was Madison Square Garden. . . . It's hard to imagine a place that big and a wedding with such stars could feel so personal."

Sir Paul McCartney serenaded the newlyweds with the 1963 Beatles hit "I Want to Hold Your Hand," People reported Saturday.

Roberts confirmed The Post's previous reporting that **Stevie Nicks** also performed.

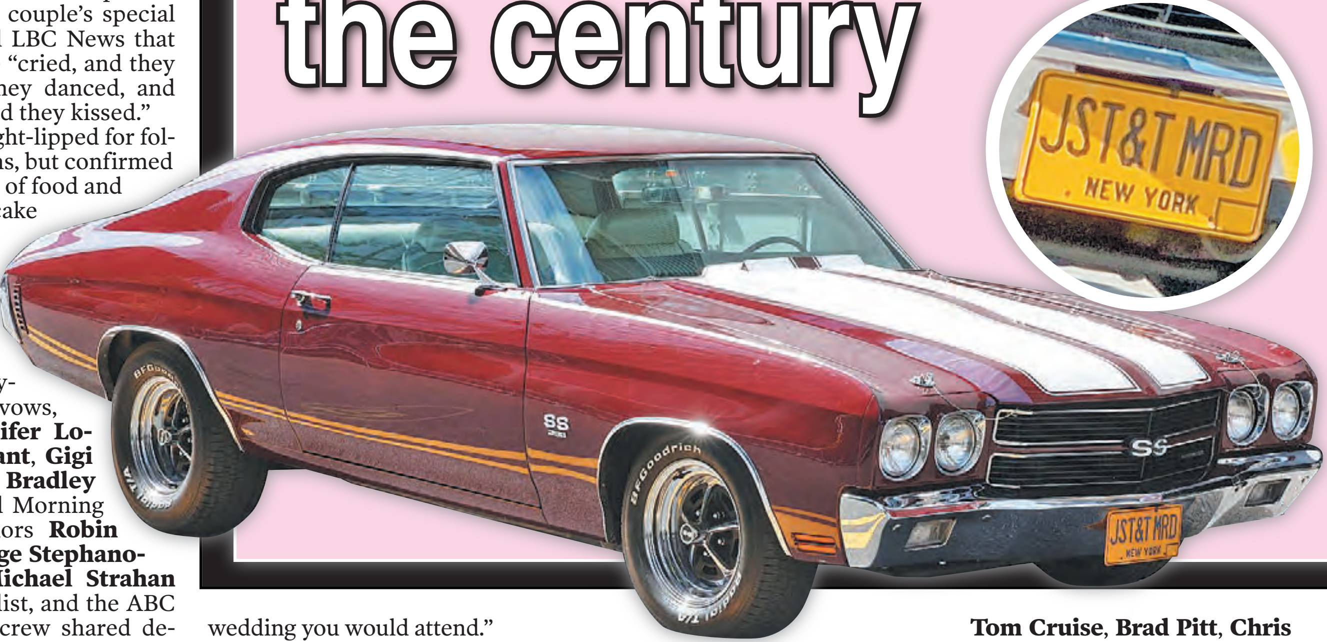
Adam Sandler officiated the wedding. The couple wore Christian Dior.

Swift "wore two dresses and they did their own vows," a source who attended the wedding told The Post.

"Everyone danced. It was just like a normal person's [wedding] but with the biggest stars in the world! Both are very performative," the source said.

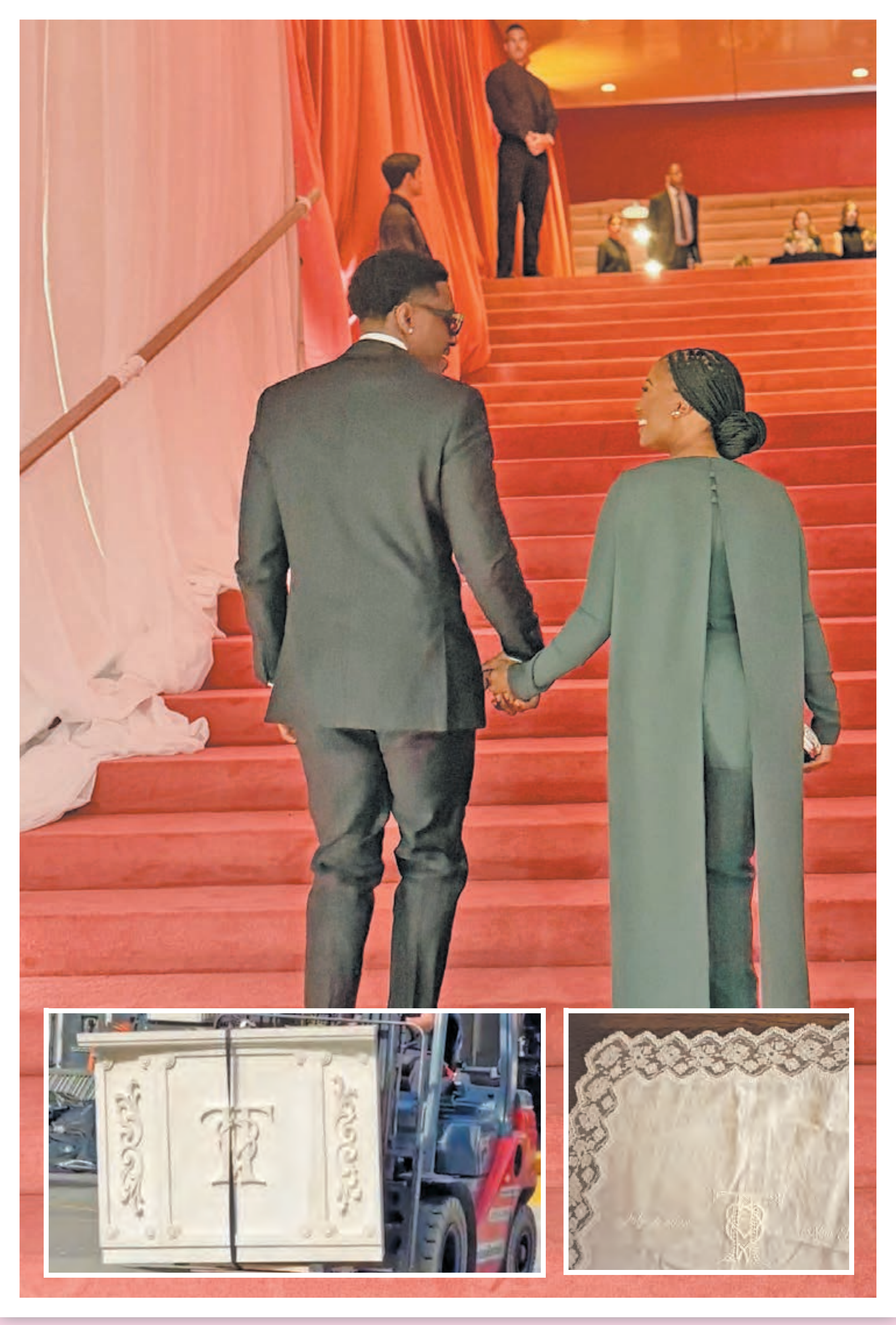
Tom Cruise, **Brad Pitt**, **Chris Rock**, **Dakota Johnson**, **Tom Brady**, **Ed Sheeran**, **Jason Sudeikis**, **Kane Brown**, **Fergie**, **Dita Von Teese**, **Stephen Colbert**, **Steven Spielberg**, **Reese Witherspoon**, **Ethan Hawke**, **Tom Hanks** and bwere just a few of the stars who made the cut for "the most outrageous guest list," according to our insider.

The affair "blew the [Vanity Fair] Oscars party out the water. The room was so celeb heavy. Everyone got up on stage and per-



I-DOOZY OF A UNION: Travis Kelce and Taylor Swift can ride off in a car with special plates (inset) after the big event Saturday wrapped up. At right, Rob and Joann Jordan are among arriving A-list guests. Below, the altar and wedding cloth are key.

Instagram/@__io___; Brigitte Stelzer for NY Post; maren morris/ instagram; © Page Six (2)



STARS GALORE: Among the galaxy of stars gathered to celebrate the loving couple are (from top) Gigi Hadid, Jennifer Lopez, Reese Witherspoon, Tom Brady Brad Pitt and Millie Bobby Brown.

jennifer lopez/Instagram; Instagram/@dimitrishair; Christopher Sadowski for NY Post; Reuters; Christopher Sadowski for NY Post (2)

formed their songs with the band, including Fergie," they said.

None of it was captured on video, at least not from the guests. "You had to check your phone. Once you left the venue, you were out. No reentry," they said.

Sharing is caring

Some guests did, however, share photos of their arrivals after the wedding. Personal trainer **Rob Jordan**'s wife, **Joann Jordan**, posted an image Saturday on Instagram of them walking up the Garden's large staircase covered in a red carpet.

"An unforgettable evening in New York celebrating the beginning of a beautiful new chapter of our dear friends, Travis and Taylor," she captioned the post.

"Love was in the air, the city was magical, and every detail was simply unforgettable," she added.

Kelce's pal **DJ Chop UFL** also shared multiple photos from the staircases to his social media. "The secret garden was an unbelievable celebration and experience! So happy for my brother and sister Trav & Tay Tay. Congratulations once again! Yesterday was perfect," he wrote.

Director **Joseph Kahn** posted a selfie with wife **Lotte**, with pink curtains in the background. "Had a wonderful time . . . I got to meet **Steven Spielberg** and the lovely **Kate Capshaw** and talk filmmaking with the GOAT (lifelong dream achieved)," he wrote.

"What I will say about the wedding was it was so much funnier and emotional than expected, and as big as it was, it also felt very intimate," he added.

Swift and Kelce cemented their big day with a huge screen outside MSG that displayed the message "JUST&T MARRIED!"

They further sealed the deal with a muscle car. A person who appeared to be a MSG staffer was spotted Saturday driving a 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle SS convertible with a New York plate reading "JST&T MRD." The convertible was then loaded into a truck.

Chappie roasts Travis

Dave Chappelle certainly kept things real about Travis Kelce's bachelor party, and this may have provided a "wrong" moment for CNN on Friday.

Kelce attended one of the comedian's performances in San Diego last month during his bachelor party ahead of Friday's wedding to Taylor Swift, and Chappelle said he interacted with the crew.

He then provided a raunchy and stunning reaction to the pre-wedding festivities.

"I was shocked. I've never seen anything like that: a whoreless bachelor party," Chappelle said Friday night to Andy Cohen and Anderson Cooper.

Those in attendance with Chappelle in Yellow Springs, Ohio, chuckled in the background before Cooper and Cohen finally grinned.

"Whatever makes you happy, Travis," Chappelle said with a laugh.

TMZ reported at the time that Kelce, brother Jason — his best man Friday night — and roughly eight others attended Chappelle's June 21 performance at San Diego State.

Earlier in the day, the Kelce brothers and friends attended a NASCAR event in San Diego.

Matt Ehalt

MSG staff hit over pix

Page Six learned at least four union workers were escorted out of Madison Square Garden Thursday, the night before Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce's wedding.

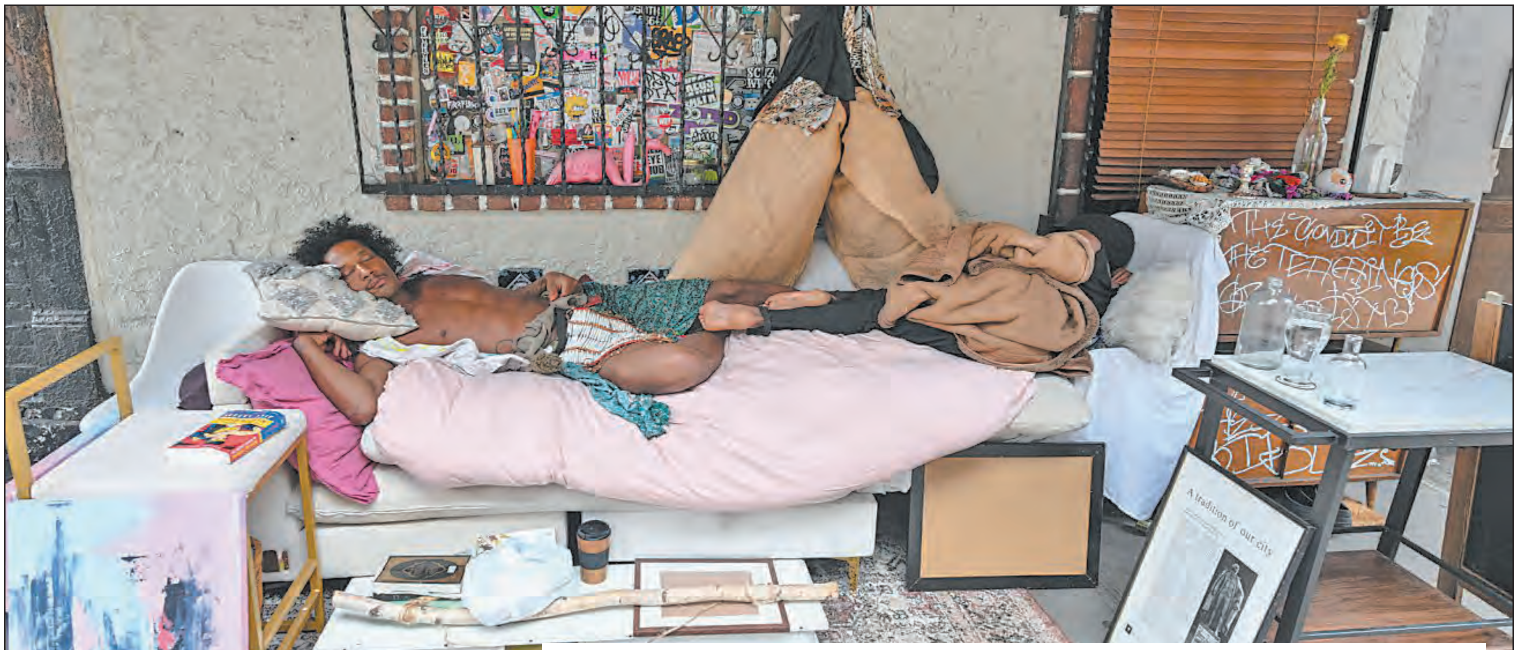
One source told us two stagehands "were escorted out Thursday night for taking pictures."

Another source said the number was actually four.

However, one source clarified the snap-happy duo weren't fired, noting that "since they work for the union, and not MSG, they would have to go to arbitration before they were fired."

The insider said they will be sanctioned.

Nicki Gostin


J.C. Rice for NY Post

On the 'home' stretch

The hard-partying "homeless man with a tail" and his girlfriend have established a new furnished apartment on a Bleecker Street sidewalk and neighbors say they're roaring more than ever.

The pot-puffing, booze-swigging, twerk-obsessed homeless man called Tiger who was booted off Sullivan Street in Greenwich Village last month after The Post exposed his elaborate lair has brought his unhinged antics back to the neighborhood, less than a block away.

Named for the striped orange tail he sometimes attaches to his rump, Tiger commandeered a 10-foot-by-5-foot parcel on Bleecker Street in front of the shuttered Cafe Español about two weeks ago.

The prime location is merely around the corner from his old haunt — which caused nightmares for repulsed residents.

With the help of his tigress, who gave her name as Nina, he's already decorated the space with a chaise lounge, two night stands, a rug, knickknacks and glass bottles.

Locals say the pair are ramping up their bad behavior on the block, with Nina often seen treating Sullivan Street into her own personal toilet and recently cursing out and stalking a still-shaken neighbor. *Shane Galvin*

AC fails disabled residents

A state-run facility for people with developmental disabilities has gone nearly three years without working air conditioning — leaving vulnerable residents and workers enduring what "oppressive heat" inside the aging Adirondacks institution, a union said.

Sunmount Developmental Center in Tupper Lake, which is operated by the state Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, has been struggling with a failed cooling system even as summer heat pushed local temperatures into the upper 80s and low 90s.

"This is not an emergency at this time, but it is a serious, ongoing priority that demands immediate attention," Public Employees Federation president Wayne Spence wrote Thursday in a letter to state Director of Operations Jackie Bray.

"I personally toured the facility [Wednesday] and experienced the oppressive heat that both staff and residents, who are a vulnerable population, face."

OPWDD spokeswoman Jennifer O'Sullivan told the Times Union, which first reported the letter, that the agency "has been working to fix issues where central air conditioning is failing . . . due to aging infrastructure." *Ariel Zilber*

Crime spike 'rolls' on

Attacks in transit up in some sectors

By TINA MOORE and NICK LABBAT

Major crimes on New York City subways and buses have surged in the majority of NYPD patrol boroughs so far this year — even as the citywide total is down about 1% — stoking new fears among straphangers.

The crimes shot up 32% in the Bronx North Patrol Borough, which includes Woodlawn, Kingsbridge, and Fordham, and 25% in the Manhattan North Patrol Borough, which includes the Upper West Side, Upper East Side and Harlem, NYPD data show.

Major transit crimes have also increased 17% in Bronx South, which extends from Mott Haven to Hunts Point, and 16% in Brooklyn South, which includes Coney Island, Crown Heights and Park Slope. In the Queens South Patrol Borough, which includes Jamaica and Ozone Park, the same crimes rose 3%, the data show.

Big crimes show drops

At the same time, the major index crimes are down 12% and 8%, respectively, in southern Manhattan and northern Brooklyn — bringing down the citywide crime stats.

The NYPD didn't provide an official breakdown of the index crimes — murder, rape, robbery, felonious assault, burglary and grand larceny.

Luiz C. Ribeiro for NY Post

BLOODY: Medics treat a man who was stabbed at Grand Central Terminal in April. Cops shot the alleged attacker.

But a source familiar with the data said the crimes citywide are down 0.74% so far this year to 1,085 from 1,093 in the same period a year ago.

Felonious assaults are up 4% citywide to 330 from 316 in the city's transit system and robbery is up 10% to 216 from 197, the source said.

In total, the five patrol precincts with increases in subway crime have seen transit crime jump 21% to 428 from 351, according to the city's CompStat 2.0 website.

At a press conference Thursday, Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch acknowledged the increases in robberies and assaults while noting more guns have been recovered and arrests are up. She pointed out that subway ridership rose 5% compared to last year.

"We are also watching the categories where we have seen increases in transit: murders in transit are up by 2 year-to-date," she said.

"We do not ignore increases — even when the overall trend is moving in the right direction," Tisch said.

Criminals who are 18 years old and under are driving the increase in robberies, "including kids as young as 12 and 13," she said.

Groped at clinic: suit

A physician assistant at Brooklyn College's health clinic groped female students — but complaints were brushed off by his supervisor, a lawsuit alleges.

Former CUNY film student Regina Patino claimed she felt violated by Gary Giardina on several occasions between 2022 to 2024, according a lawsuit in Brooklyn Supreme Court.

She claimed he guided her to his office by her lower back, slid his hand up her thigh and pressed his cheek against hers.

CUNY, Brooklyn College and Giardina did not return requests for comment. *Sonya Gugliara*

PAUL PELOSI
Struck parked car in Napa.

Pelosi 'hit-run' apology

Rep. Nancy Pelosi and husband Paul have spoken out after he crashed his convertible into a parked car in Napa County before allegedly fleeing the scene.

"Paul Pelosi has personally apologized to the owner of the vehicle and assured them that he would take responsibility for the damage," a spokesperson for the Pelosis told The Post, declining to comment further.

Paul, 86, faces a misdemeanor hit-and-run charge stemming from Friday's crash in Yountville.

Investigators found Pelosi in his brown convertible, which was disabled and partially blocking the roadway.

Pelosi admitted to hitting something but said he did not know what it was, and he continued driving until his vehicle stopped working, authorities said.

A preliminary screening found no alcohol in his system, and he was not arrested. *Daniel Farr*

'Immig kills' cop in crash

A Pennsylvania state trooper was killed allegedly by an illegal immigrant trucker who entered the country under the Biden administration and obtained a commercial driver's license from Massachusetts while refusing to leave the country.

Trooper Michael E. Pahira, Jr., 44, was inspecting a semitruck on Interstate 81 in Schuylkill County at about 7 a.m. Wednesday when another truck went off the roadway and hit the first vehicle, creating a domino effect and striking the officer, state police said.
Nicholas McEntyre

'BLOOD' MONEY

Soros tentacles

Members of billionaire George Soros' clan donated more than $1.6 million to lefty Congressional candidates for the midterms so far.

Name	Relationship	Amount
George Soros	Patriarch	$1,043,800
Alex Soros	Son	$140,525
Robert Soros	Son	$30,200
Jonathan Soros	Son	$216,700
Andrea Soros	Daughter	$26,000
Jennifer Soros	Jonathan's wife	$163,300
Jamie Soros	Robert's wife	$10,000
Julien Soros	Grandson	$1,700
Eliza Soros	Granddaughter	$500
Jeffrey Soros	Nephew	$12,500
Daisy Soros	Sister-in-law	$7,000
Total donations so far		**$1,652,225**

SOURCE: Federal Election Commission

NY Post Design

Not just George: Soros clan splurges on Dems

By GABRIELLE FAHMY

Nearly a dozen members of the wealthy Soros family collectively poured more than $1.6 million to Congressional candidates' midterm campaigns so far, The Post has learned.

The donations suggest the clan's grip on American politics extends even beyond patriarch George Soros and his son Alex, who took control of his father's $25 billion empire ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

Topping the list of the other members of the clan was George's son from his first marriage, Jonathan Soros, and his wife Jennifer Allan Soros, who together donated $380,000 to House and Senate races all over the country.

Jonathan, 55, a Harvard law graduate who runs private investment firm One Madison Group and was snubbed as heir to the family business for his younger half-brother, met Jennifer, 56, when they were working on Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign and both have been active behind the scenes ever since.

His sister, Andrea Soros, George's daughter from his first marriage who just this week sold a luxurious $46 million mansion in tony West Village's trendy West 4th Street, has also written checks to leftist candidates to the tune of $26,000 so far these midterms.

Andrea, 61, whose husband Eric Colombel runs a Buddhism nonprofit empire, was named No. 2 in "top 10 richest billionaire heiresses" in 2010 with a $14 billion fortune, behind only Michael Bloomberg's daughter Emma.

A favorite of the only Soros daughter — whose real estate portfolio also includes a sprawling house on 60 acres in Rhinebeck, NY, where Hillary and Chelsea Clinton have stayed — is potential 2028 Democratic presidential nominee Jon Ossoff, to whom she sent $14,000 so far this cycle.

Impacting midterms

Other politically influential members of the bloodline include George's oldest son, Robert Soros and his new wife, socialite Jamie Singer Soros, who together donated $40,200.

Singer Soros, 41, who sits on the board of trustees of the Met and jet sets to Turks and Caicos, Paris and Firenze when she's not sailing at Martha's Vineyard or posing with Victoria Beckham, married the eldest Soros spawn in an exclusive 2020 affair at Connecticut's famed Glass House that was featured in Vogue.

Robert, 63, whose messy $350 million divorce with his first wife Melissa Schiff — after he had an affair with a nude model — almost cost him his art collection, runs family office Soros Capital Management.

Even Robert's children, George Soros' grandchildren, Yale-educated tech founder Julien Soros, 30, and New York University MFA-MBA grad and filmmaker Eliza Soros, 32, have started getting involved in the family's political business, together donating $2,200 so far this cycle.

And on the West Coast, George's Hollywood movie producer nephew Jeffrey Soros, 66, who's behind Hulu's "Legacy: The True Story of the LA Lakers" with Magic Johnson and made films with Alec Baldwin and Jim Carrey, coughed up $12,500, while his mother, Daisy Soros, 96, who married George's brother Paul, chipped in $7,000.

The other family members are backing a slew of Democratic midterm candidates that include:

- ■ Controversial Democratic candidate for US Senate in Michigan Abdul El-Sayed, who this week received the endorsement of "Squad" Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) and who's claimed Israel is "just as evil" as Hamas and refused to condemn Iran's slain supreme leader.
- ■ Democratic nominee for US Senate in Texas, Rep. James Talarico (D-TX), who's claimed "God is non-binary."

Alex has spent $103M

- ■ Candidate for US Senate in Mississippi Scott Colom, who's claimed he's "running a grassroots campaign powered by Mississippians" despite pocketing Soros money for years as a soft-on-crime district attorney.
- ■ Transgender activist Rep. Sarah McBride (D-DE), who became the first openly trans person in Congress and is running for reelection in Delaware.
- ■ House candidate for Colorado, Jessica Killin, the former chief of staff to second gentleman Doug Emhoff, Kamala Harris' hubby. Killin just won the primary in a historically Republican district.

Alex Soros, 40, funneled a staggering $103M into the midterms so far, mostly through political action committees in his father's and his names — on track to beat the election spending record set by George in last midterms.

Thorny endings

By ANGELA BARBUTI

The LOVE PRODUCER
JULIE LAPLACA

'SOAR' POINT: "The Bachelor" producer Julie LaPlaca (far right) reveals she had a brief fling with one of the contestants, pilot Peter Weber, and spills on all the drama that followed in her juicy new memoir.

Instagram

'Bachelor' producer reveals all

She was behind the scenes, and between his sheets.

A "Bachelor" producer who slept with the show's leading man penned a tell-all — and it was not all roses when she told him she was writing it.

When Julie LaPlaca revealed to her former fling, Peter Weber, that she was working on the memoir, she got a very thorny reply.

"I told him after I finished my first draft and offered to let him read an early copy, and instead he panicked, threatened to sue, and blocked me," LaPlaca, 41, told The Post ahead of the Tuesday release of "The Love Producer."

"So then I really cooperated with him in terms of wanting to connect him with my people so that he could read it, and then he just ghosted me."

This week, Weber, 34, a pilot who was featured on Season 24 of "The Bachelor," which aired in 2020, vented his frustration over the book's impending publication via an Instagram comment.

"What I'll say is this: I asked Julie on multiple occasions to please keep private, intimate details, private. This wasn't about a tv show anymore," he wrote.

LaPlaca, a Connecticut native who now lives in Topanga, Calif., said she is choosing to "honor his opinion."

"I think Peter is coming from a place of fear and ego instead of a place of love . . . I wish he had read the book and can see that I'm coming from my heart," she said.

In the memoir, LaPlaca reveals the first time they had sex — in 2020 at Weber's parents' house, where he was living at the time, after watching an episode from his season of "The Bachelor," which had been filmed in 2019.

"Peter came to the doorway. 'Jules, come here,' he said. I walked into his room, not realizing what was about to happen . . . 'We don't have to — this is bad,' he said. 'It's up to you.' . . . My face said it all. He leaned in and we kissed," she wrote.

"Peter reached up and turned the lights off, just like in the fantasy suites. The rest is what happens when the cameras stop rolling, and stays between Peter and me."

LaPlaca said she left out the physical details of that hookup, and the two that followed, to honor her feelings for Weber, to whom she eventually confessed her love years later.

"I'm not here to spill any juicy details. I'm just here to share my truth," she said.

She also recalled the hate she got from "Bachelor" fans before she even slept with Weber.

It's 'going to happen'

On New Year's Eve in 2019, while Weber's "Bachelor" season was still airing and America did not yet know he didn't end up with Hannah Ann Sluss, to whom he proposed on the show, LaPlaca joined him in Times Square for his "Rockin' Eve" appearance.

She posted an Instagram photo of the evening, and internet sleuths saw Weber's jacket in the background, and concluded they ended up together.

"I had people comparing me to Harvey Weinstein . . . telling me I need to get cancer and die . . . telling me I was ugly . . . There are some mean trolls out there," she said.

During all that drama, LaPlaca got a call from "Bachelor" creator Mike Fleiss, who told her the network was considering her for the role of "The Bachelorette."

"They seemed really excited about it and it really felt like it was going to happen . . . It really was a Cinderella story . . . So I was disappointed when it didn't," she said.

LaPlaca decided to quit after seven years with the "Bachelor" franchise, never telling her bosses about her tryst with Weber.

"I had a lot of fear around it. I dreaded anyone finding out. I lived in paranoia for a while . . . and ultimately it was probably one of the main reasons why I left the show," said LaPlaca, who is now a certified life coach and hypnotherapist.

Year of pain for flood kin

The mourning parents of a young girl that died at Camp Mystic shared a devastating message before the anniversary of the Texas flood that killed 25 campers and two teen counselors.

"On this Fourth of July, it will be one year since our eight-year-old daughter, Cile, was killed in the floodwaters at Camp Mystic," Will and Cici Steward said in a message shared with KVUE Austin.

Cile's body is still missing a year after floodwaters from the Guadalupe River in Kerr County swept through cabins where dozens of young girls slept.

"We still do not know how we will face that morning. But we know we will not face it alone," the parents said. The message did not mention the Eastland family, which owns Camp Mystic, but the Stewards and other parents of campers are suing them for allegedly being unprepared for the disaster and, in some cases, leaving kids who attend the camp to their fate.

Camp director Edward Eastland sobbed in a Travis County courtroom in April before a judge blocked the family from rebuilding the camp for a summer opening — despite around 900 prospective campers having signed up. *Jared Downing*

LGBTQ+ Turk storm

Turkey has reportedly blocked an American LGBTQ+ cruise from docking at two of its ports, citing "moral values" in the latest sign of the Islamist-run government's increasingly hardline stance toward the LGBTQ+ community.

The Athens-to-Venice voyage organized by LA-based Atlantis Events was scheduled to stop in the western Turkish port of Kusadası on July 7 before continuing to Istanbul.

Instead, the cruise will now visit Cairo, Egypt, and the Greek island of Crete, according to CNN, which first reported the ban.

Ariel Zilber

Fallen branch smashes No. 4 train

A subway operator was injured Saturday night when a falling tree branch shattered the cab window of a northbound No. 4 train in The Bronx, partially suspending the line.

The incident occurred around 8:26 p.m. about a quarter-mile south of the 161st Street/Yankee Stadium station, the MTA said. The operator sustained "minor injuries," and none of the 200 passengers were hurt.

A rescue train evacuated the passengers to the 149th Street station.

No. 4 train service was suspended between 149th Street and Woodlawn in both directions while crews cleared the damage.

Daniel Cody

Kids among 5 shot during fireworks

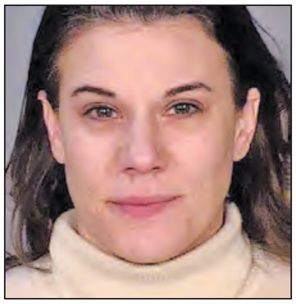
Five people, including a 7-year-old and a 5-year-old, were shot Saturday night while watching fireworks in Brooklyn, sources said.

The holiday gun attack occurred at 2930 W. 30th Street in Coney Island, near the boardwalk where a fireworks display had been set for 9:45 p.m., police say.

All five individuals survived and were being treated at a hospital n.

Police hadn't release details on the suspects or a motive Saturday.

Daniel Cody



ALLISON SCHARDIN
Seduced underage athletes.

Teen-sex ma's hub standing by her

The Minnesota husband of a woman convicted of sexually assaulting two 15-year-old hockey players she met in a hotel hot tub during a family "staycation" has astonishingly chosen to stand by his wife despite her sick crimes.

Allison Schardin's husband, Anthony, revealed that they're still married and trying to fly "under the radar" months after she landed on the sex-offender registry for having sex with the two teens while a third watched in January 2024, the Daily Mail reported.

When asked by the outlet whether the couple was still together, Anthony calmly replied, "Yes."

"We're trying to stay under the radar about all that," the 52-year-old added.

Shardin, 40, dodged prison and was sentenced in January 2025 to two weekends in jail, community service and five years of probation after pleading guilty to third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

Prosecutors said the Blaine mother of two was staying at a Roseville hotel with her husband and kids on Jan. 14, 2024, when she met the two teen athletes, who were traveling from Colorado with their team, and struck up a conversation in the hot tub, according to a complaint obtained by Law & Crime.

She allegedly pressured two of them into sex acts with her while a third boy watched, the complaint said.

She continued texting the boys when they went home, begging them not to tell authorities about what had happened and apologizing.

Anna Young

TINDER USERS GOT GAME

PLAYERS: FIFA games in Mexico, where these two fans took a moment out to smooch, was the country where Tinder enjoyed the biggest increase in visitors and international users.

AFP via Getty Images

App surges with soccer influx

By ANGELA BARBUTI

They're trying to score.

Tinder users in New York City and New Jersey are having a ball with the influx of visitors to MetLife Stadium for the World Cup.

The dating app told The Post it has seen a 34% increase in non-local users in the area compared with the same time last year.

The international tourists using the app in the metro area hail mostly from the UK, Norway and Canada, while Americans coming to the area are mostly from Miami, Los Angeles and Boston, Tinder said.

On June 13, when Brazil played Morocco at MetLife Stadium, Tinder experienced a 35% lift in the area.

International jump

At the start of the soccer tournament, Tinder witnessed an average increase of over 47% from international users in the 16 host cities and a 22% lift among domestic visitors.

Swipe activity across World Cup host cities increased an average of almost 25%, Tinder said.

The top three host cities with the biggest surge in Tinder activity around World Cup games were Monterrey, Mexico, which enjoyed an 80% lift around the Sweden vs. Tunisia matchup; Guadalajara, Mexico, which had a 74% surge when South Korea played Czechia; and Boston, which saw a 47% increase during the Iraq vs. Norway game.

Influencer Kayla Rose, who has gone viral on Instagram for her World Cup dating posts, explained to single women in host cities that they should download Tinder to attract "cute foreign men."

Women flooded the Bostonian's comments section,

"This is so true! My cousin lives in Spain and the only dating app people outside the US really use is Tinder. Not just for hookups too but like actually dating and relationships," one wrote.

"Tinder has a bigger fan base in Europe. I always use it when traveling overseas!!" another confirmed.

"I met my foreign husband on Tinder," someone else added.

Other ladies who had already sworn off Tinder also weighed in, pondering giving it another try.

"Yoooooo stop I am dying because i really don't want to download tinder but I need a love story," one said.

A few others predicted a baby boom next year.

"The birth rate in all these cities is going to be nuts 40 weeks from now," one guessed.

Someone sympathized with local men who might lose out on love as local women seek foreign studs.

"American men . . . fake an accent," they advised.

abarbuti@nypost.com

Quake kid scores his FIFA wish

A Venezuelan boy who lost his parents and older brother in the devastating earthquakes had just one wish — a Cristiano Ronaldo sticker.

He got a heartfelt video message from the soccer legend himself instead.

Andrés Mieles, 10, who remains hospitalized after he had his right leg amputated, hit the jackpot Friday when the Portugal superstar sent him the personal message — and an invitation to watch him play live.

"Hi Andrés, how are you? I'm making this video to send you a big hug," Ronaldo said a day after he helped his national team advance to the World Cup Round of 16 with a thrilling victory over Croatia in Toronto.

"I know you're a huge fan. Once you're feeling better, I'd like to invite you to watch one of my matches and just enjoy the game. Sound good?"

Ronaldo added: "I'd love to meet you. All the best, my friend."

Mieles (left) was rescued moments after the June 24 twin earthquakes destroyed his home in La Guaira and killed his family.

While in his hospital bed last weekend, Mieles was recorded saying he wanted the sticker.

Adry Torres

Is Nuzzi eyeing a new Vice?

Page Six®

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OLIVIA Nuzzi has yet another jaw-dropping love interest, we hear.

Earlier this week, the Status newsletter reported that the scandal-scarred journo has been spotted with Vice co-founder **Shane Smith**, sparking chatter that Nuzzi — who lost not one but two jobs amid the revelations about her alleged affair with **Robert F. Kennedy Jr.** — might begin working for Vice.

But Page Six has learned that they've been experimenting with more than just editorial positions.

"It's romantic," choked one insider.

Apparently the pair met in April and "it began immediately," a source added.

Nuzzi had been the Washington correspondent for New York Magazine, but was put on leave pending an investigation after it was revealed that she had developed an intimate relationship with Kennedy while interviewing him on the 2024 campaign trail. (Kennedy claimed they only met once, for an interview.)

Page Six revealed soon after that the pair had maintained a long and intense phone-based relationship, and that they'd even told each other they were in love.

Her then-fiancé, now-former Politico writer **Ryan Lizza**, wrote a tell-all about the episode, in which he also suggested she'd dated much-older ESPN host **Keith Olbermann** and Sen. **Mark Sanford**. (Neither Sandford nor Nuzzi addressed the claim.)

Now we're told Nuzzi and Smith, the deeply controversial co-founder of Vice — which began as an nihilistic underground hipster magazine, became a corporate establishment behemoth, went bankrupt and is now in the process of piecing itself back together — have been spotted hanging out in Malibu, where they both live.

Vice insiders told us that Nuzzi isn't being considered for a job, and that Smith is "a single guy," suggesting he's free to have personal relationships. Nuzzi and Smith didn't get back to us.

'Caper'd crusader

DAN Houser, the creative force behind the "Grand Theft Auto" and "Red Dead Redemption" video game franchises — which he oversaw when he ran Rockstar Games with his brother **Sam** — will publish the first volume of his new comic book series, "American Caper," in paperback later this month, Page Six Hollywood's **Peter Kiefer** reports. "American Caper" is one of the flagship franchises that Houser's new company, the Santa Monica-based Absurd Ventures, is developing across a range of platforms including film, television, gaming and good old-fashioned book publishing.

Stay-at-homes

MEGHAN Markle (above), **Prince Archie** and **Princess Lilibet** may not make the trek from California across the pond to England with **Prince Harry** later this month, Page Six confirms. A source familiar with the situation tells Page Six, "The reason for the decision is likely to be down to concerns from the Duke's security team and the lack of up-to-date Risk Management Board. The RMB was supposed to have taken place in March but was inexplicably parked . . . Such an assessment would have provided a more comprehensive understanding of the threats and risks faced by the Duke and his family."

Kim Kardashian/Instagram

It's the 'Skim'iest swimwear yet for Kim Kardashian as she markets her new "micro" bikini collection to her millions of followers.

Marketer off market

LAURENCE Milstein and **Thomas Isen** are engaged, we hear. Milstein is the co-founder of PRZM, a trendy marketing agency, and he serves on the board of amfAR, the Parrish Art Museum and the Young Fellows board of the Frick. He's also the son of **Philip Milstein**, the banker and real estate tycoon, and a cousin of **Howard Milstein** of Emigrant Bank. Isen, meanwhile, is a co-founder of political advisory firm Second Floor Advisors. He worked on the Biden-Harris transition team in 2020, and then in the Biden White House as a senior adviser to the Cabinet secretary.

Flying Lo-class

SHE'S still Jenny at the back. A Page Six spy was surprised to spot **Jennifer Lopez**'s mom, **Guadalupe Rodriguez**, boarding their flight to Athens, Greece — and heading for a seat in coach. The superstar's momma was at JFK with a pal, heading for a European vacation. But apparently the economy experience didn't dampen her spirits before the 10-hour flight. "I said 'Hi,' " reportedly our arguably overfriendly spy. "She was nice!"

Streamin' in USA

THEY red white and blew the competition away. **Taylor Swift**'s wedding wasn't the only thing that put her in the spotlight this week. The "Bad Blood" singer is also leading the pack on Spotify, topping the streaming giant's list of the most-streamed artists, per internal listener data released ahead of the Fourth of July. "As the nation marks its 250th anniversary, we wanted to take a look at how American artists, creators, and authors shape listening at home and around the world," Spotify said. The streamer found that US listeners love content made in America. According to the recent Spotify analysis, **Morgan Wallen** (above) was the home-country fave, with 74% of his streams originating from US listeners — the highest among American artists.

Byrds of a feather shop together

CLEANUP on Aisle 9! Former pioneering porn star **Robin Byrd** and Oscar winner **Liza Minnelli** were unlikely mutual fans who'd run into each other at the supermarket in the wee hours. Byrd appeared on the "Finding Fire Island" podcast, where the former host of "The Robin Byrd Show" — the late-night, low-budget, nudity-filled and very odd talk program that ran for 21 years after launching in 1977 on Manhattan Cable Television's infamously taboo Channel J — revealed she had some pretty mainstream Hollywood fans. "**Barry Manilow** . . . everybody! I was the entertainer's entertainer," Byrd, 71, said, also naming Minnelli and **Alan Cumming**. Byrd recalled of Minnelli, "She lived in my neighborhood and we used to run into each other [after] the show . . . on Wednesday nights. She'd be shopping at Food Emporium at, like, 2 or 3 in the morning." Byrd told podcast creator Jess Rothschild that when the "Cabaret" legend, 80, approached her to say "I'm such a big fan of yours," Byrd "was like, 'I'm such a big fan of *yours!*' Y'know, we did that." **Sarah Jessica Parker** also produced an HBO doc, "Bang My Box: The Robin Byrd Story," that came out last month. ("Bang My Box" was the musical number Byrd performed to wrap each episode.)

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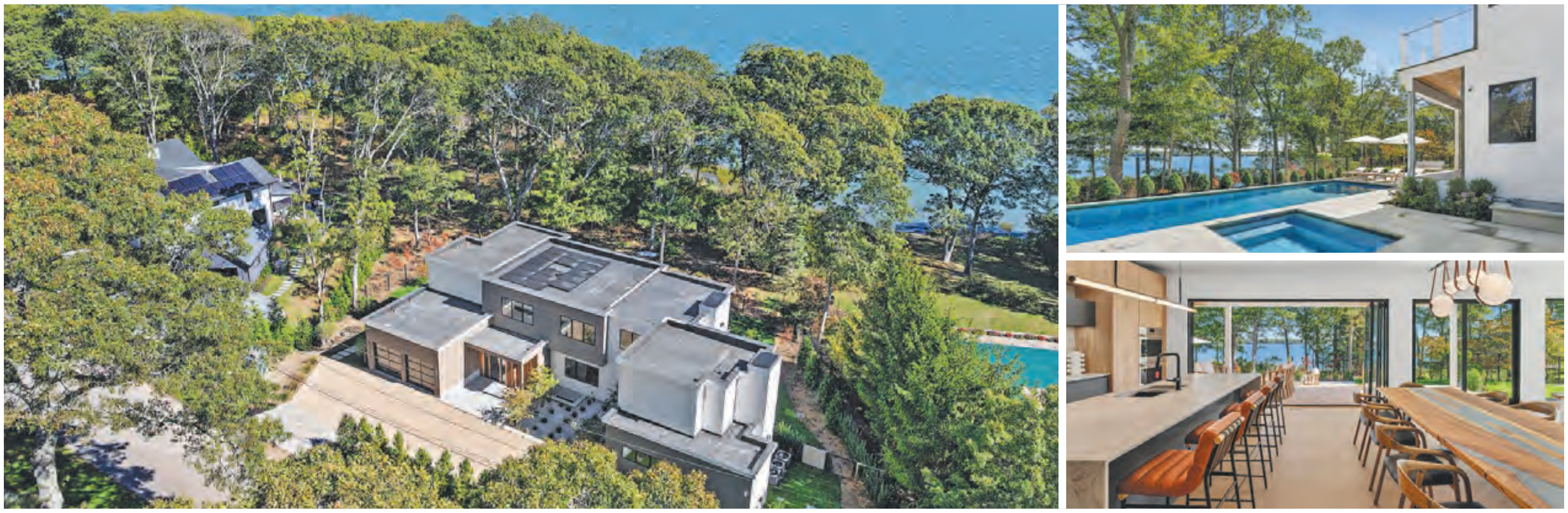
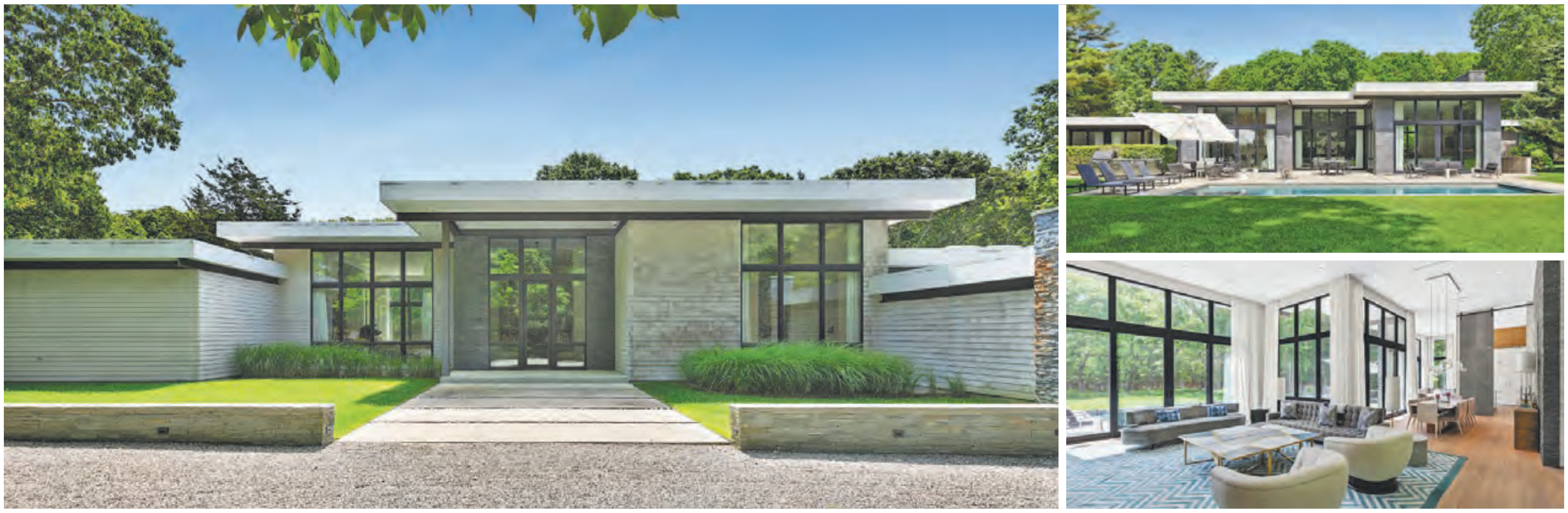


Modern Waterfront in East Hampton | **$9,995,000 | 8 BR, 6 BA, 2 HALF BA**

Newly completed and design-driven, this waterfront home makes a bold statement in modern coastal living on a private acre with 140 feet of frontage. Thoughtfully conceived and beautifully furnished, it blends architectural sophistication with effortless Hamptons style. **Web# 419259**



5-acre Modern in Historic District of East Hampton | **$6,500,000 | 5 BR, 6.5 BA**

On a secluded 5+ acres in the historic district of Springs and surrounded by 165 acres of nature reserve, this gated property with high ceilings, and skylights provides complete privacy. Sliding glass doors throughout open out to an expansive backyard with a covered gunite pool with hot tub, and outdoor shower. **Web# 414410**

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Page Six®

Plastic fantastic! Grammy winner **Olivia Rodrigo** celebrates her new LEGO "Olivia" collection.

Best Image / BACKGRID

Elektric moment

MISSY Elliott was brought to tears honoring her former label boss, **Sylvia Rhone**, who signed her to Elektra Entertainment in the '90s. "We're not celebrating you after life; you are here to smell your flowers and get every flower you deserve . . . there would not be a Missy Elliott if it wasn't for Sylvia," the "Supa Dupa Fly" rapper said. Rhone responded, "I knew what was there inside of you, and when it came out, it was ferocious." She added, "We did some groundbreaking things together, and I will always appreciate that." Rhone, the first woman to head a major label, retired from the music biz and stepped down as chairman of Epic Records last year. Elliott hosted the celebration with **Mona-Scott Young** and the Black Music Coalition. Industry greats **Stevie Wonder**, **Suzanne de Passe**, **Bryan-Michael Cox**, **Too Short**, **Jimmy Jam** and **Estelle** all attended the event at the Sun Rose in West Hollywood.

More celebrity photos at PageSix.com

Hue gotta love "Bridgerton" star **Simone Ashley**, wearing understated "Ralph Lauren" white at Wimbledon Saturday.

Darren Gerrish/WireImage for Ralph Lauren

Hubb' of activity

LINDSAY Hubbard brought her reality star power to support DC flack bestie **Dannia Hakki**'s New York opening of her boutique lifestyle PR firm, MoKi Media. The "Summer House" and "In The City" star hung out with her ex-fiancé and co-star **Carl Radke** while also "playfully flirting" with former "Bachelor" star **Matt James**. "They arrived at the party together, and he was putting his arm around [her] and playfully flirting," a spy told Page Six. The gathering was held at Hakki's client **Stephen Starr**'s Buddakan restaurant in Chelsea. Starr also came out to support, as did fellow restaurateur **Carlos Quirarte**.

We hear

THAT **Jonathan Davis** from Korn will perform with Japanese rock star **Yoshiki** in LA July 16-17 . . . THAT **Michelle Grace** will release her children's book "I'm Right Here" in the fall . . . THAT Spotlight Magazine celebrated turning 5 with a party hosted by owner **Sydney Sadick** for **Brooke Shields**, **Sutton Stracke**, **Luann de Lesseps**, **Ramona Singer**, **Candace Bushnell**, **Peter Cook**, **Fern Mallis**, **Cameron Silver**, **Anna Rothschild**, **Alix Strauss**, **Nicole Miller**, **Lele Sadoughi** and **Rozzi**.

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Hollywood Insights for Insiders.

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Feb 11, 2026

Page Six Hollywood

By Ian Mohr

Welcome to Page Six Hollywood...

In today's newsletter, we have a mix of news that only P6H can provide!

Writer at Large **Tatiana Siegel** looks at the controversy surrounding **Casey Wasserman** after another recording artist exited his agency on Tuesday in the wake of the bombshell Epstein data dump, as well as his alleged feud with WME superagent **Ari Emanuel.**

We deployed Senior Columnist **Peter Kiefer** on a

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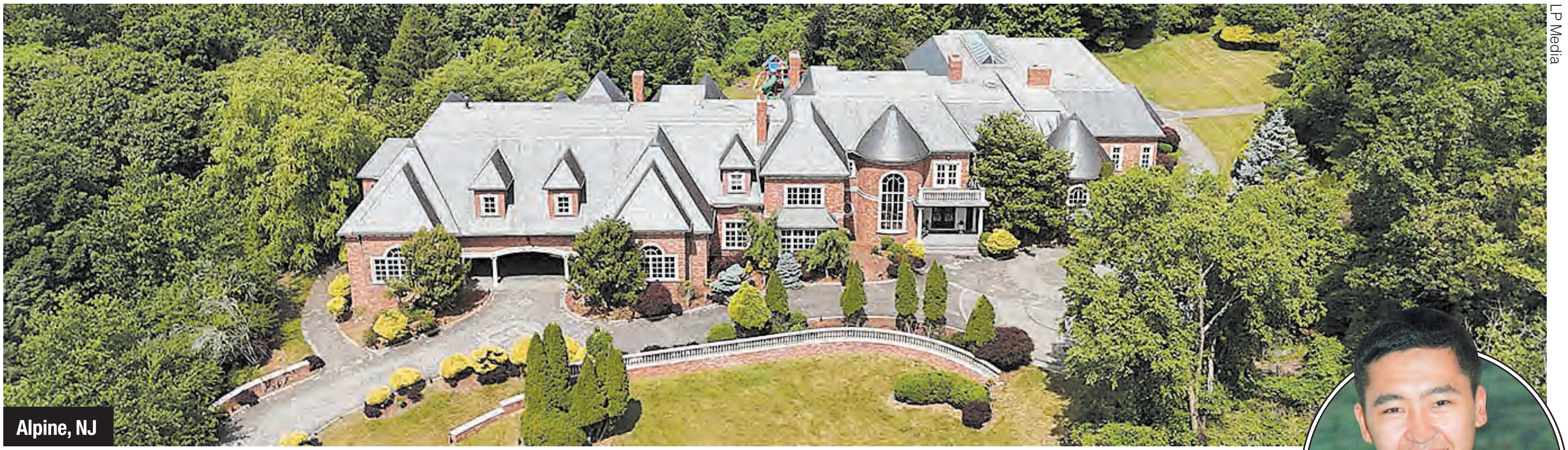
Gimme Shelter

JENNIFER GOULD



Alpine, NJ

LP Media

$10 steal for famed NJ mansion

One of New Jersey's most expensive homes in history has sold for $10 to the son-in-law of disgraced former Malaysian prime minister **Najib Razak**, Gimme Shelter can reveal.

Najib is currently in jail for his role in the $4.5 billion theft from 1MDB, a Malaysian sovereign wealth fund.

Daniyar Kessikbayev (pictured above right) — who is married to Najib's daughter **Nooryana Najwa Najib** and is the ex-nephew of Kazakhstan's former dictator, **Nursultan Nazarbayev** — snagged the swanky Alpine mansion at 2 Margo Way for $10 in March of 2025, according to property records.

The castle-like property had last been on the market for $34 million in 2011, before it sold a year later, in 2012, for $20 million in cash to an anonymous shell company that was linked to Kessikbayev, several sources told Gimme Shelter.

At the time in 2012, 2 Margo Way was the highest price ever paid for a New Jersey home. Since then, Alpine's Stone Mansion sold for $27.5 million in 2022, and a Spring Lake beach house sold for $25 million last year.

While the home was earlier valued by tax assessors at just under $12.79 million, its 2026 tax assessment valued it at $35.5 million.

'It's a beautiful street," said a broker involved in deals on the street.

At 17,150 square feet, the 9 bedroom home sits on more than 3.1 acres. Inside, there's everything from a full-length basketball court, and a bowling alley to a home theater, a library, a wine cellar and a grotto, an elevator and a hotel-style saltwater pool -- a second pool is on the grounds outside.

The home was built in 2000 and first owned by **Nancy Scott** and her husband, construction mogul **Joe Scott**, whose company, Mayrich Construction, worked on the underground footprints for trophy towers including 432 Park Ave., the Hearst Tower, Trump World Tower, the Bloomberg Tower and the AOL Time Warner Center, now known as the Deutsche Bank Center.

The Scotts had purchased the property for $1.55 million in 1997.

In an interview with Gimme Shelter, Scott said that his broker told him a buyer wanted to pay $20 million in cash -- quickly.

"It was December, and they wanted to close by the end of the year, so we sold it and moved into another house. It [$20 million] was a lot more than I had built it for," Scott said, adding that the buyers paid for almost everything in the house, "including the liquor."

This is not the first time that Kessikbayev has snagged a $20 million residence for less than the price of a Manhattan cocktail.

He also once bought a $20 million Plaza Hotel condo for $1.

In 2001, Kessikbayev's mom Maira married **Bolat Nazarbayev**, brother of Kazakhstan's authoritarian ruler from 1989 to 2019.

Seven years later, in 2008, Bolat bought a $20 million condo at the Plaza Hotel. Kessikbayev, who had Bolat's power of attorney, added his mom's name to the deed and then bought it from her for $1.

But in 2011, Bolat and Maira's marriage was annulled, and Maira was arrested in Dubai on an Interpol 'red notice' issued by Kazakhstan.

In 2012, Bolat filed a lawsuit in Manhattan against Maira and Kessikbayev, alleging they "swindled" him out of more than $100 million, including the $20 million Plaza Hotel condo.

Penthouse pair for sale

It's not often a single investor owns one of the city's top trophy penthouses in both New York and Miami — and puts them both on the market at the same time for a combined $138 million.

William Duker (pictured right), a former lawyer turned investor, has listed his Miami penthouse triplex at the Apogee, 800 South Pointe, for $78 million.

At the same time, he's put his Tribeca penthouse at the Sky Lofts, 145 Hudson St., on the market for $59.5 million, Gimme Shelter has learned.

"I'm 72, and I'm just beginning to organize this next phase of my life. The last thing I need now are two apartments of this size," Duker tells Gimme Shelter.

The Miami unit spans the 22nd to 24th floors of the Apogee — 8,271 square feet inside with another 13,146 square feet of outdoor space, four bathrooms, three powder rooms and a private rooftop pool. The listing brokers are **Dora Puig** of Luxe Living Realty and **Carlo Gambino** of Douglas Elliman Florida.

The Tribeca penthouse has four bedrooms and four and a half baths across 7,500 square feet, plus a 4,500-square-foot wraparound terrace.

Its facade — "sheathed in UV-coated, high-performance, museum-quality insulated glass" — floods the interior with light while shielding it from the elements.

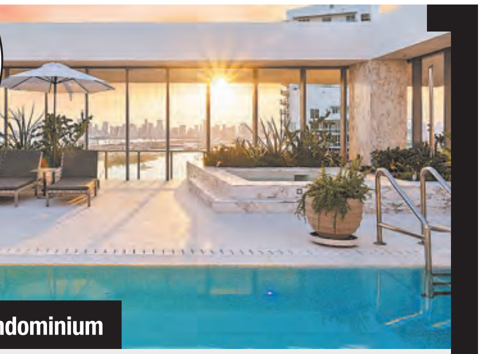
The listing is co-held by **Jim St. Andre** and **Trevor Stephens** of Compass, and **Adam Modlin** and **Andrew Nierenberg** of the Modlin Group.

Duker's career has been as unusual as his real estate portfolio.

As a lawyer, he helped recover hundreds of millions of dollars stolen during the savings and loan scandal of the 1980s and '90s, which ultimately cost taxpayers an estimated $125 billion.

But while working for the FDIC and the Resolution Trust Corporation, Duker overcharged the government by $1.4 million. In 1997 he pleaded guilty to four felony counts, including making false statements and obstructing a federal audit, and was sentenced to 33 months in prison. He was disbarred.

The judge in the case, **Sonia Sotomayor** — now a Supreme Court Justice — said at the time it was difficult to reconcile the two sides of the case: Duker had helped the government recover "hundreds of millions" of dollars even as he defrauded it.



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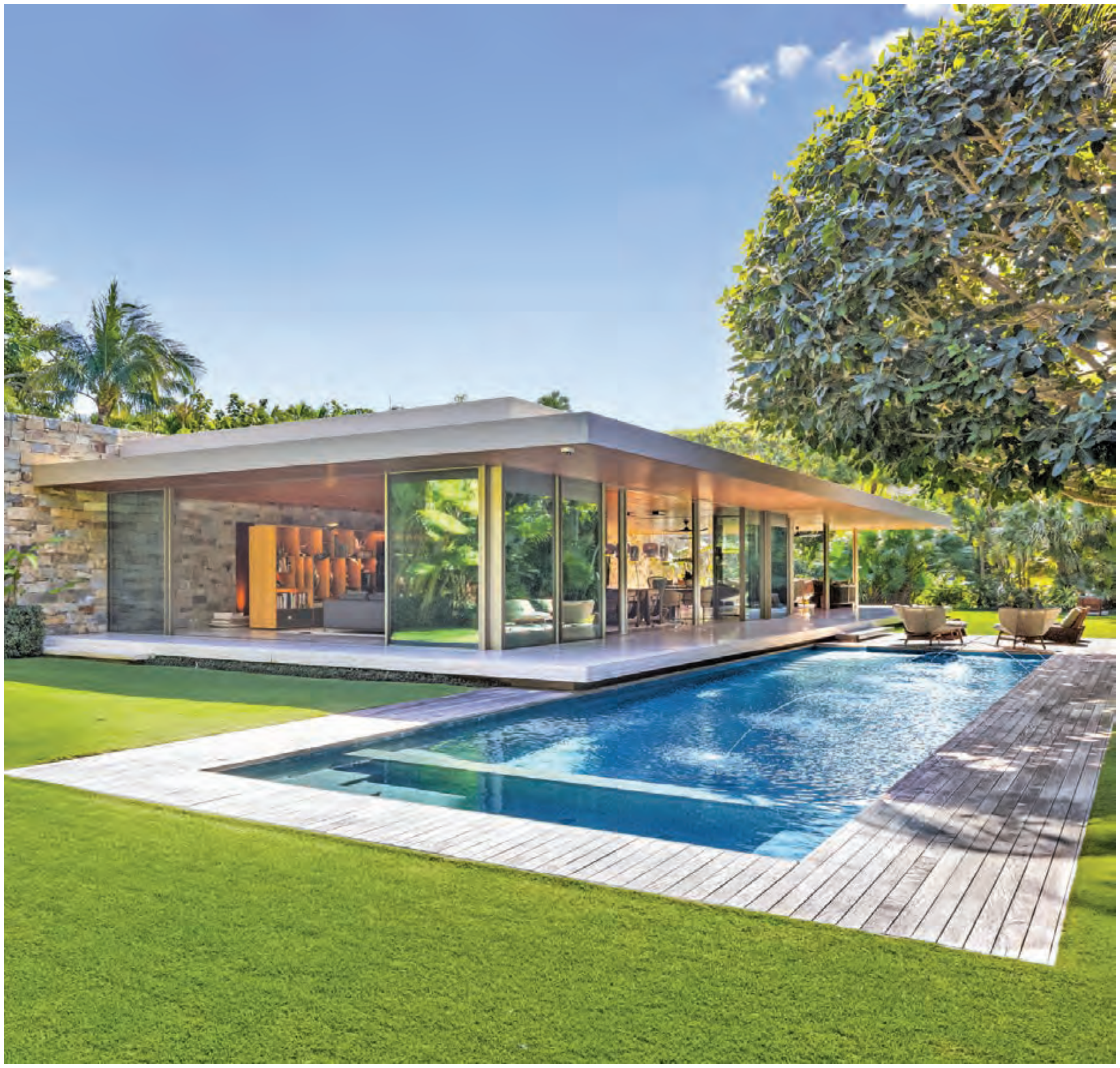
EXCLUSIVE: $47,500,000



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Dave Portnoy brings Alex Cooper

REVIVING THEIR 'DADDY' ISSUES

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'CALL' IT QUITS: This week, the publication of Barstool Sports boss Dave Portnoy's memoir shed new light on what went wrong with former "Call Her Daddy" co-hosts Alex Cooper and Sofia Franklyn.

Getty images (3); alexandracooper / Instagram; Simon & Schuster (2)

By SARA NATHAN

DAVE Portnoy just won't let the "Call Her Daddy" saga die. In his new memoir, "Cancel Me If You Can," the outspoken, multi-millionaire founder of Barstool Sports alleges that the podcast's Alex Cooper and her former co-host, Sofia Franklyn, plotted to falsely accuse him of sexual harassment to break their contracts with his company.

Portnoy slams Franklyn as a "f--king liar" — and admits to getting back at the women by conspiring to break up their partnership.

And while Portnoy makes it clear he has no issue with Cooper, he does give a revealing glimpse into her steely nature.

He details how, in 2020, Cooper ousted Franklyn from the podcast that the former pals debuted on Barstool two years prior — and how she snagged the "Call Her Daddy" business for herself, going on to rake in an estimated $32 million in annual earnings, according to Forbes.

"Dave is an axe-to-grind person and he'll never give it up," a source in the know told Page Six, while admitting that Cooper and Franklyn were "extremely difficult from the jump" and reportedly "really hard to manage."

"They were very shrewd," the source added. "They wanted what they wanted — money and fame — and they would stop at nothing to get it. it was a really dark time [at Barstool].

"This just all played out in a mean girl way. I never understood why Sofia didn't fight for a share of the IP," the source said.

Page Six has reached out to the women for comment on Portnoy's allegations.

Cooper, 31, and Franklyn, 33, were roommates in NYC when debuted their first episode of "Daddy" in October 2018 on Barstool.

They became a huge hit among 20somethings with their raucous tales of sex and dating. But behind the scenes, things were rocky.

Portnoy's complaint

"It was the classic [example of] you think you see something online and people genuinely believe you're like sisters, but our relationship was so awful," Cooper later revealed on her Hulu docu-series, "Call Her Alex."

Things went downhill in April 2019, when Logan Paul planted some "rather poisonous seeds" in Cooper and Franklyn's minds during a discussion about pay on his podcast, according to Portnoy.

In 2020, Portnoy says, he offered each of them a massive deal to stay at Barstool: $500,000 in annual salary and 3.5% of all merchandising they sold. At the end of their stint with the company, all merch money and the "Call Her Daddy" IP would revert to them, along with 10-20% of future sales for any alcohol brand started under the brand name.

When Cooper met Portnoy on the rooftop of his building, he claims she told him, 'I love the deal you proposed, and I want to take it. But Sofia is never going to take it.' "

"'Okay,' I said. 'You guys realize I'll sue you if you take the podcast to another network before your contract is out, right?' Alex claimed to me that they had a plan to say they were both sexually harassed at Barstool," he alleged.

"That was it. That was their game plan to get out of their contractual obligation to Barstool Sports in the event that I did not relinquish their IP to them and wish them well on their merry way as they jumped ship to a rival podcast network."

Cooper then allegedly decided to cut out Franklyn and take the money herself.

"I don't want Sofia, even if she decides to take the deal," Portnoy recalls her asking him. "Can I get the entire IP by myself if I honor the deal?"

Privately, Cooper also alleged that Franklyn had substance issues, Portnoy writes.

Portnoy, already annoyed by what he considered the overbear-

& Sofia Franklyn feud back to life

ing interference by Franklyn's then-boyfriend, former HBO exec Peter Nelson — whom he call "this Lord Farquaad-looking, factory-reject Ken doll" and "in my eyes quite possibly a human incarnation of Satan" — agreed. (Page Six has reached out to Nelson for comment.)

But, ever the businessman, Portnoy then offered Franklyn a rival podcast.

Sofia's revenge

"I knew at that point the dirty little secret that nobody knew about 'CHD': the girls hated each other," he writes, admitting he wanted them to launch two "warring podcasts."

"Let's squeeze every last drop out of this fracture for as long as possible. People will pick sides, we'll make merch about it," Portnoy writes of his mindset. "For me, the worst thing that could happen was for these two girls to see eye to eye again."

Portnoy even confesses to leaking the story of Cooper and Franklyn's bitter feud to The Post to stop them from ganging up against him.

"It worked perfectly, Alex and Sofia completely severed all communication," he writes. "They each believed the other had leaked the story. The friendship, and the podcast, as we knew it, would never exist again. They hated each other."

A year later, Cooper signed a $60 million, three-year stint with Spotify, then moved "Call Her Daddy" to radio giant Sirius XM for a whopping $125 million multiyear contract.

She founded her own media empire, Unwell, in 2023.

The podcast network has grown to seven shows in addition to "Call Her Daddy."

Her Unwell Hydration, which sells sports drinks, can be found at Target, Meijer and Sprouts, and is an official partner of the National Women's Soccer League. She's also produced a Hulu reality show, "Overboard For Love."

TROUBLE AT HOME: Cooper's husband, Matt Kaplan, recently found himself in hot water over a Vanity Fair investigation that claimed he fostered a toxic work environment, alleging he threatened to ruin employees' careers and asked questions about their sex lives.

In "Call Her Alex," Cooper admits that Portnoy "said, 'If you stay at Barstool for one more year, you can own "Call Her Daddy." ' Sofia didn't want to take the deal, but I did, so I stayed."

Cooper has said she has not spoken to Franklyn since their spit.

Franklyn, meanwhile, has not had the same level of success. She launched her own podcast, "Sofia With An F," and is engaged and planning a wedding in Italy this summer to a man whose name she has yet to reveal.

She is set to release her own memoir, "Daddy Issues," in November — and savagely cut Cooper from a photo on the cover.

Portnoy is expecting the worst.

He writes in his book: "Women are going to believe her just because she's a woman, because they feel bad for her or they don't like Alex or they hate my guts or whatever. That's fine."

He has publicly stated he believes Franklyn helped orchestrate a 2021 Business Insider exposé that contained sexual misconduct allegations against him.

"You can say whatever you want about me, but literally nobody has ever said I don't tell the truth 100% of the time. So to all the women who think Sofia is some feminist icon, just remember you are propping up a woman who I believe was willing to lie at the drop of a hat about sexual harassment, which sets all women back," he writes.

Left 'reeling'

Franklyn's book "tackles her explosive exit from 'Call Her Daddy,' the severe emotional toll of her fallout with Alex Cooper, and her path to reinvention," according to a press release.

"The decision [to write the book] was one I came to on my own," she told Rolling Stone in February. "Six years ago, I was reeling from an experience I didn't understand. I needed to grow up and be free of ego as much as humanly possible."

According to another insider who has worked within Cooper's orbit: "Alex always maintains 'Call Her Daddy' was her idea and she did the work. She did edit it, and it always seemed like Alex was the engine and the driver, but Sofia maintained it was a lot of her ideas."

Legally, Franklyn has no rights to "Call Her Daddy."

A cursory check of the United States Patent and Trademark Office shows that Barstool Sports, which owned the "Call Her Daddy" trademark, officially signed over the brand to Cooper's production company, Bulldozer Productions, in November 2021. Cooper merged that company in March 2025 into TRNDG IP, LLC, for which she served as president and which remains the current owner of the brand.

Asked whether she has any legal way to fight Portnoy's accusations that she and Cooper planned to make fake sexual harassment claims against him, trademark lawyer Matthew Asbell of Lippes Mathias replied she would have to "somehow prove that to be false and damaging. A public response may also give more life to the story and just help Portnoy sell more books."

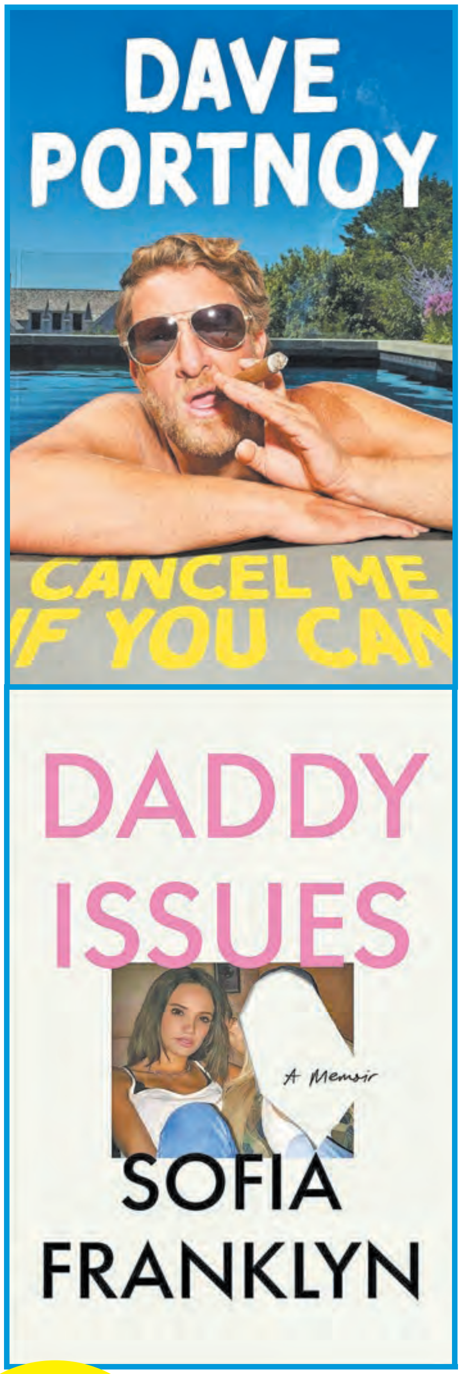
Cooper is now expecting her first baby with husband and business partner Matt Kaplan, who found himself at the center of a Vanity Fair exposé last month, which alleged he had created "the most toxic work environment."

In April, Bloomberg News alleged that Kaplan "frequently" yelled at staff members, citing people familiar with the company's operations.

The Vanity Fair piece claimed sources also said that Kaplan used words like "stupid" or "retarded" to refer to employees and threatened to ruin their careers. One source claimed Cooper had witnessed her husband lose his temper and scream "the nastiest things" at people but did not intervene to defend anyone involved.

Some female staffers said that Kaplan asked about their sex lives and commented on their physical appearances.

Cooper has also been embroiled in a feud with Alix Earle after Unwell dropped Earle's "Hot Mess" podcast in February 2025.



BOOK 'EM: Portnoy's book is out now, while Franklyn's memoir is due in the fall.

The women stayed largely silent on their reported beef until early April 2026, when Earle reposted a Tiktok video of another content creator calling Cooper "so awful" and comparing her to "an ambulance chaser" for "profiting" from women's vulnerable moments.

Cooper retaliated by telling Earle to stop being "passive aggressive" and "get specific and just say what you've got to say about me."

"There's no NDA. No one is stopping you. Stop hiding behind other people and just say it yourself," she said.

Earle replied: "On it!"

However, Earle refused to discuss the fallout on the "Today" show in May, saying "Let's keep the positive vibes going."

Still, said the source in the know: "This mean girl thing is going to plague Alex Cooper forever."

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News OF THE World®

THAILAND

They were on a wild monkey chase.

Nearly 100 brazen simians escaped from their enclosure at Lopburi Municipality Animal Nursery this week and wandered free around central Thailand.

This prompted a massive search team of local authorities, which had to use food-baited cages and in some cases, tranquilizer darts, to capture them.

Staff at the Mueang Lopburi district facility, known for its free-roaming primates, scrambled to keep their over 1,000 other creatures from flying the coop as well.

MEXICO

A massive crowd of 1 million gathered in downtown Mexico City Tuesday to celebrate Mexico's 2-0 victory over Ecuador, leading to the deaths of four people crushed in the crowd.

This prompted the city to take precautions for future games by closing metro stations, other public transportation and some streets to prevent overcrowding.

AUSTRALIA

The Australian Soccer Players Association has teamed up with a concussion expert to call on Football Australia to delay training children to head the ball until they get older.

The move came after FIFA's concussion assessment.

SOUTH KOREA

Cafés in Seoul's Hongdae neighborhood are celebrating the birthdays of K-pop stars — who never even show up.

These "birthday cafés" ring in the celebrations by decorating with photographs of the celebrity, streamers and balloons, along with a curated playlist of their songs.

Photocards, stickers and cups are also given out when customers order beverages.

There are around 50 cafés in Hongdae that throw these shindigs, where the celeb birthday celebrant of honor is never expected to attend.

UAE

This week, the country unveiled its first national passenger rail network, the first phase of a train network operated by Etihad Rail that will connect 11 cities.

The first trip lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes and went 155 miles to Mohammed Bin Zayed City Station in Abu Dhabi. *Angela Barbuti, Wires*

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instagram/ealfonzomatatan

KEEPING FAITH: Former major-league catcher Eliezer Alfonzo helped arrange the heavy equipment to search for his wife (above inset left) and daughter (inset right) in the rubble of a hotel leveled in the Venezuelan earthquakes.

WON'T GIVE UP HOPE

Ex-MLBer: Kin alive in Venez.

By ADRY TORRES

A former MLB catcher is clinging to hope that his missing wife and daughter are still alive beneath the rubble of a collapsed Venezuelan hotel — after rescuers Friday pulled out the still-alive family dog.

Eliezer Alfonzo, 47, said he secured the heavy machinery needed to help rescue crews search the wreckage of Hotel Eduards in Macuto, where his wife, Patricia Alfonzo, 50, and daughter, Eliana Alfonzo, 16, disappeared after the devastating June 24 earthquake.

The equipment played a crucial role in leading a US-based search-and-rescue team and their Venezuelan counterparts to a patch of hair they believed was human amid the rubble.

Instead, they felt his teen daughter's dog, who let out a bark before the pet was removed from the debris. The rescue unit also found his wife's cell phone.

"If my daughter's little dog turned up, I think the two of them are in there," Alfonzo told local reporter Maryorin Méndez. "I know my wife and daughter are real fighters."

Played for four teams

Alfonzo, who played for the San Francisco Giants, San Diego Padres, Seattle Mariners and Colorado Rockies from 2006-2011, explained how he sought out help in his hometown of Puerto La Cruz, and arranged the machinery's five-hour transport.

Alfonzo checked into the Hotel Eduards on June 24 at 2:45 p.m. local time with his wife and his daughter, who is a US citizen.

He later departed the hotel and made his way to Estadio Fórum La Guaira to join the rest of the coaching staff of the Delfines de La Guaira, the baseball team he manages, and prepare for a 6 p.m. game.

Alfonzo said he spoke to Patricia a half hour before the first pitch as she and Eliana were getting ready to go to the game.

"I still don't know if they had left the room," he said.

The first earthquake, a 7.2 magnitude temblor, was registered at 6:04 p.m. followed by a 7.5 magnitude-quake 39 seconds later.

The wives of Delfines ballplayers Gorkys Hernández and Harold Chirinos were found dead under the hotel rubble.

Venezuela's Acting President Delcy Rodríguez said Friday that the death toll from the earthquakes has risen to 2,595.

Alfonzo said he has faith that his wife and daughter will not be added to the tragedy's death count.

"Tests have been conducted. They've brought in dogs. The dogs are picking up signs of life," said Alfonzo, whose son Eliezer Jr., 26, was called up to the big leagues by the Los Angeles Dodgers on Saturday.

A second son, Omar Alfonzo, 22, is in the Pittsburgh Pirates farm system.

"And as I always say, I won't stop until I have them in my hands. I remain confident that they are alive."

Ukraine drones hit Russian refinery

Ukrainian drones crippled an oil refinery in Russia's second-largest city of St. Petersburg early Saturday, as Kyiv continued to intensify its long-range attacks hoping to force dictator Vladimir Putin to the negotiating table.

Drones were seen flying over the city in footage shared on Telegram, and loud explosions rang out around 6:30 a.m. local time.

Dozens of drones were launched over the region, according to Russian officials.

Fire raged, with thick black plumes of smoke rising from the port area, which is home to the St. Petersburg Oil Terminal — one of Russia's largest fuel storage and export facilities, which reportedly produces roughly 250,000 barrels of petroleum products a day.

"Ukraine's Defense Forces struck port oil infrastructure that generates revenue for Russia's war," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky Saturday, confirming the targeted strikes on X.

Ukraine also battered the main base of Russia's Baltic Fleet at Kronstadt, which Zelensky called "an important military target."

"Russia has lost the Black Sea," the Ukrainian leader claimed in another post on X Saturday.

The attacks are part of a the 40-day "pressure campaign" signed off on by Zelensky last month, tapping Ukraine's military intelligence to unleash long-range drones strikes deep into the heart of Russia to force Putin to tap out of his more than four-year war.

Gabrielle Fahmy

GLOWING UP FAST

By JEANETTE SETTEMBRE

The new faces of fashion are familiar — and they're coming of age on the runway.

In a taste of what's to come, Britney Spears' sons Sean Preston, 20, and Jayden James, 19, made their fashion show debuts on June 29 walking in Paris Fashion Week at a menswear show.

Their public debut ushers in a new generation of "nepo baby" models, also including Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin's son Moses, 20; Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban's daughter Sunday Rose, 17, and Jack White and Karen Elson's daughter Scarlett White, 19; as well as Depeche Mode singer Dave Gahan and actress Jennifer Sklias-Gahan's daughter Stella Rose Gahan, 26.

But despite the somewhat disparaging label given to their heritage, the new crop of models are very much in-demand among heritage designers such as Burberry and modern ready-to-wear designers like Khaite.

"These kids are almost the same age as social media. The public, for the most part, has watched them grow up," Nigel Barker, a fashion photographer and former judge on "America's Next Top Model," told The Post of why designers and brands are keen to work with the offspring of the famous.

"The children helped humanize their [famous] parents — now that they're coming of age and modeling becomes a natural progression — it's almost like a debutant moment," said Barker, whose daughter Jasmine Barker, 17, walked in New York Fashion Week for brands including Private Policy.

Indeed, a number of designers and brands have been leaning on legacy names to reach a younger demographic. Plus, they have the added bonus of collaborating with their famous parents who often will share the ads, engage on social media or even co-star with their kids.

"The knock-on effect [is] that the parents will probably promote [the brands] too. They'll be happy and proud of their children. Even if they don't share the post on their feed, they'll like it or comment — if you see Gwyneth Paltrow commenting or writing online [about Moses' campaign] it's an additional endorsement. You're getting a two-for-one family deal," Barker said, adding that star kids carry major staying power for brands.

"It's not just about their ability to model. When the Spears brothers came out and walked the runway, all the photos that circulated around it were with Britney. For the brands, it's all about the association," Barker said.

Here are some of the top famous-by-association kids to recently make their fashion debuts.

SUNDAY ROSE KIDMAN-URBAN

Famous parents: Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban

Age: 17

Height: 5'10"

Portfolio: Made her modeling debut at the Spring/Summer 2025 Miu Miu show in Paris and walked the Fall/Winter 2025 show; Christian Dior Spring/Summer 2026; Calvin Klein Fall/2026 presentation; Khaite Spring/Summer 2026.

Big picture: Sunday Rose also made cameos in her mother's shows including "Big Little Lies" and "The Undoing," and told Elle Australia in a March cover story that her mom is her biggest inspiration, signaling more acting may be on the horizon.

MOSES MARTIN

Famous parents: Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin

Age: 20

Height: 6'2"

Portfolio: Made his modeling debut on July 1 in an 80s inspired campaign with British heritage brand Burberry.

Big picture: Moses is currently a student at Brown University and, like his Coldplay frontman father, is a budding musician. In his debut campaign with Burberry, titled "Escape to the Countryside," his song "For Hire" plays in the background — a telling sign Moses is using his looks to his advantage with music.

Getty Images (4), GC Images , Instagram / @gwynethpaltrow, FilmMagic, WireImage, Best Image / BACKGRID(2),

Even 00s stars' kids are taking fashion runways by storm

SCARLETT WHITE

Famous parents: Jack White and Karen Elson
Age: 19
Height: 5'4"
Portfolio: White made her Spring/Summer 2026 debut walking for Belgian fashion designer Ann Demeulemeester and Simone Rocha. She's also the face of Valentino for its Fall/Winter 2025 season and fronted Zara's Spring/Summer 2025 campaign.
Big Picture: Positioned at the intersection of fashion and music, White, born in Nashville, describes her style as "playful and personal" telling Interview magazine in February she wants to be "the human equivalent of a super-ornate trinket from an antique store: something so bizarre and interesting that you must buy it."

STELLA ROSE GAHAN

Famous parents: Dave Gahan and Jennifer Sklias-Gahan
Age: 26
Height: 5'7"
Portfolio: Stella Rose signed is signed to Ford Models and is usually cast with a punk rock style — think leather, leopard and feathers — to match her serpentine sound.
Big Picture: Like her Depeche Mode singer father, Gahan's first love is music. Her debut album "Eyes of Glass," came out in 2023 and combined soulful sound with poetic lyrics, earning praise from Rolling Stone.

SEAN PRESTON FEDERLINE AND JAYDEN JAMES FEDERLINE

Famous parents: Britney Spears and Kevin Federline
Ages: 20 and 19
Height: 6'0" and 6'3"
Portfolio: The Spears boys made their runway debut at during the Vetements show at Paris Fashion Week. Sean wore a black oversized satin trench coat and silk button-down, while Jayden modeled a white tank top, blue jeans and chunky brown belt.
Big Picture: Jayden told Vogue on July 2 he is game to keep modeling: "I don't know about Preston, but I'm definitely interested."

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Qns. mom slay

'Stabber' daughter at large

By TINA MOORE
Police Bureau Chief

Shutterstock

BLOODY SCENE: Cops on Saturday investigate the fatal stabbing of Ausha Ramlakhan, 59, in Queens.

NYPD officers were hunting for a woman dressed in red, white and blue who allegedly stabbed her mother to death in Queens on Saturday, cops said.

The 30-year-old suspect allegedly cut her 59-year-old mom, identified as Ausha Ramlakhan, in the neck and shoulder with a sharp object at around 3:30 p.m. in South Ozone Park, according to police.

Another family member found the bloodied victim at the home on 128th Street near Liberty Avenue and called 911, police said.

Responding emergency workers pronounced the victim dead at the scene.

The suspect fled on foot and was last seen wearing blue yoga pants, a red tank top and white sneakers, police said.

Detectives later gathered in front of the home — carrying an evidence bag and taking photos, video shows.

A motive for the killing was not immediately known, cops said.

The 106th Precinct has seen a 7% increase in major crimes so far this year to 782 from 730 at the same point last year, according to NYPD data.

The killing appeared to be the precinct's first homicide so far this year, according to the data. There was one at the same point last year.

Post Weather Report

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Sunday

Today: Mostly cloudy and humid; a p.m. t-storm. High 79 to 85.

Tonight: A shower and t-storm; humid. Low 67 to 73.

Monday

Tomorrow: Humid with showers and a heavier t-storm. High 70 to 76.

Tomorrow night: Humid with rain and a t-storm. Low 65 to 71.

Tuesday

A shower or two. High 72 to 78.

Evening
Showers around. Low 64 to 70.

Wednesday

Warmer. High 79 to 85.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 68 to 74.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 12PM

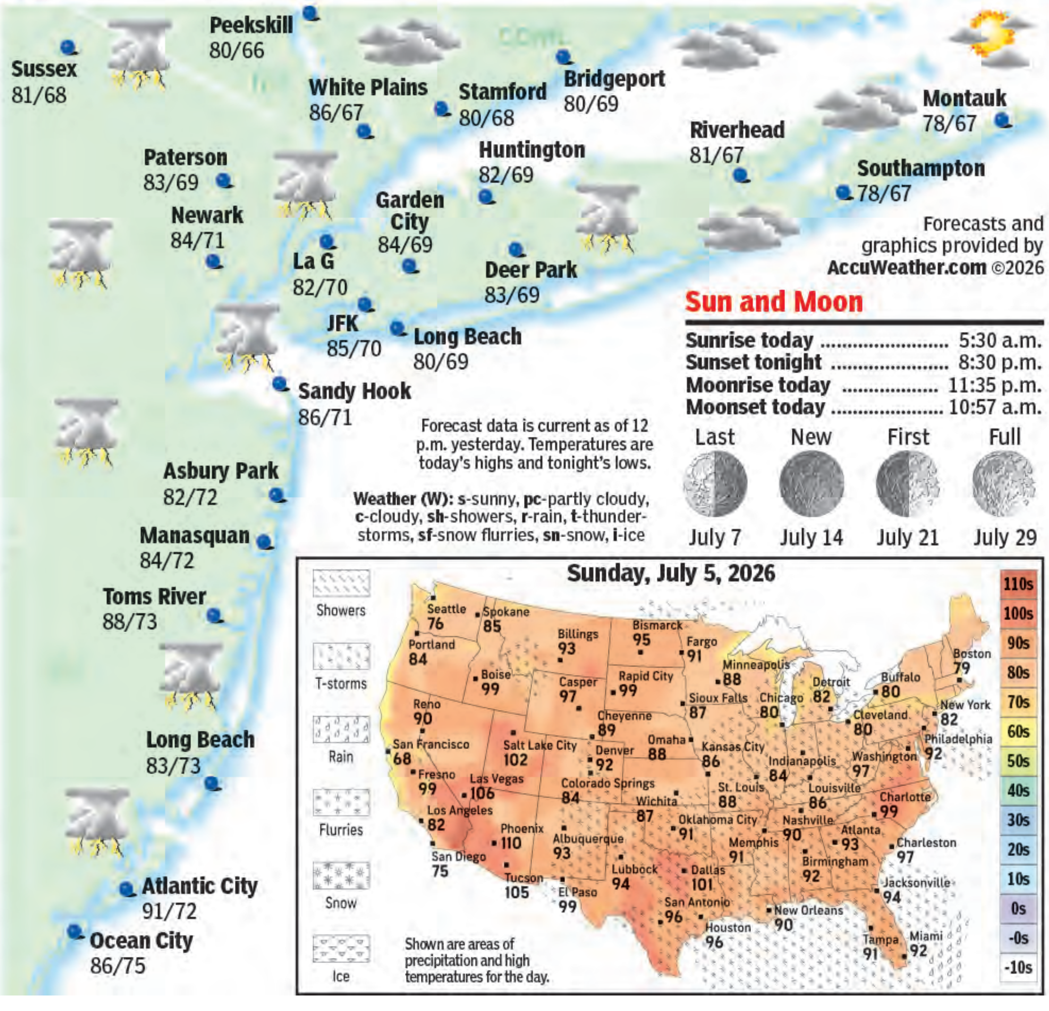
Temperature
High: 91, Low: 76, Mean: 84

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +7 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 0.13",
Year: 17.95", Normal year to date: 24.22"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 19
Total for the month (normal) 84 (47)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 484 (355)
Last year to date 382
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 99
UV index (for Sun.) .... 3 (Moderate)
Humidity (at noon) 53%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds
AQI rating: (for Sun.) .... Good


Sussex
81/68
Peekskill
80/66
White Plains
86/67
Stamford
80/68
Bridgeport
80/69
Paterson
83/69
Newark
84/71
La G
82/70
Garden City
84/69
Huntington
82/69
Deer Park
83/69
Riverhead
81/67
Montauk
78/67
Southampton
78/67
JFK
85/70
Long Beach
80/69
Sandy Hook
86/71
Asbury Park
82/72
Manasquan
84/72
Toms River
88/73
Long Beach
83/73
Atlantic City
91/72
Ocean City
86/75
Sunday, July 5, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
Seattle 76
Spokane 85
Portland 84
Billings 93
Bismarck 95
Fargo 91
Boise 99
Casper 97
Rapid City 99
Minneapolis 88
Sioux Falls 87
Reno 90
Cheyenne 89
Chicago 80
Detroit 82
Buffalo 80
Boston 79
New York 82
Cleveland 80
Philadelphia 92
San Francisco 68
Salt Lake City 102
Denver 92
Omaha 88
Kansas City 86
Indianapolis 84
Washington 97
Fresno 99
Las Vegas 106
Colorado Springs 84
St. Louis 88
Louisville 86
Wichita 87
Charlotte 99
Los Angeles 82
Oklahoma City 91
Nashville 90
Atlanta 93
Phoenix 110
Albuquerque 93
Memphis 91
Charleston 97
San Diego 75
Birmingham 92
Lubbock 94
Dallas 101
Tucson 105
El Paso 99
Jacksonville 94
San Antonio 96
New Orleans 90
Houston 96
Tampa 91
Miami 92
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s

Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather.com ©2026

Forecast data is current as of 12 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 5:30 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 8:30 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 11:35 p.m.
Moonset today .... 10:57 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
July 7	July 14	July 21	July 29

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	12:12p	---	12:15a	12:58p
Fire Island	12:21p	---	12:33a	1:08p
Hempstead	3:11a	3:41p	4:00a	4:29p
Huntington	3:22a	3:51p	4:10a	4:38p
Jones Inlet	11:56a	11:59p	12:42p	---
Montauk Point	1:08a	1:59p	1:48a	2:40p
Port Washington	3:07a	3:37p	3:56a	4:26p
Sandy Hook	12:16p	---	12:19a	1:02p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	84/68/c	75/61/sh
Danbury	78/67/c	69/63/t
Glens Falls	84/63/c	79/59/sh
Gr Barrington	80/63/c	69/58/t
Kingston	80/66/c	71/61/t
Liberty	77/62/c	66/59/t
Monticello	78/62/c	65/58/t
Newburgh	80/67/c	71/64/t
Poughkeepsie	80/66/c	69/63/t
Saratoga Springs	84/67/c	78/61/sh
Stroudsburg	82/67/t	71/62/t
Torrington	79/64/pc	68/60/t
Syracuse	84/67/pc	78/61/sh

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	89/71/s	90/69/s
Baghdad	113/87/s	114/87/s
Beijing	88/69/t	90/70/pc
Berlin	74/53/pc	67/60/sh
Cairo	97/79/pc	95/75/pc
Dublin	70/57/c	74/55/c
Geneva	90/60/s	92/59/pc
Hong Kong	90/82/t	89/82/r
Jerusalem	85/69/s	84/68/s
Kabul	92/71/pc	93/68/pc
London	85/62/c	89/61/pc
Madrid	102/76/s	103/75/pc
Mexico City	74/56/r	74/58/r
Montreal	84/63/pc	83/65/pc
Moscow	70/56/r	71/55/r
Paris	88/61/pc	95/64/pc
Rio de Janeiro	73/67/sh	75/66/pc
Rome	90/68/s	89/69/s
Sydney	60/57/sh	62/54/r
Tokyo	81/71/r	76/67/sh

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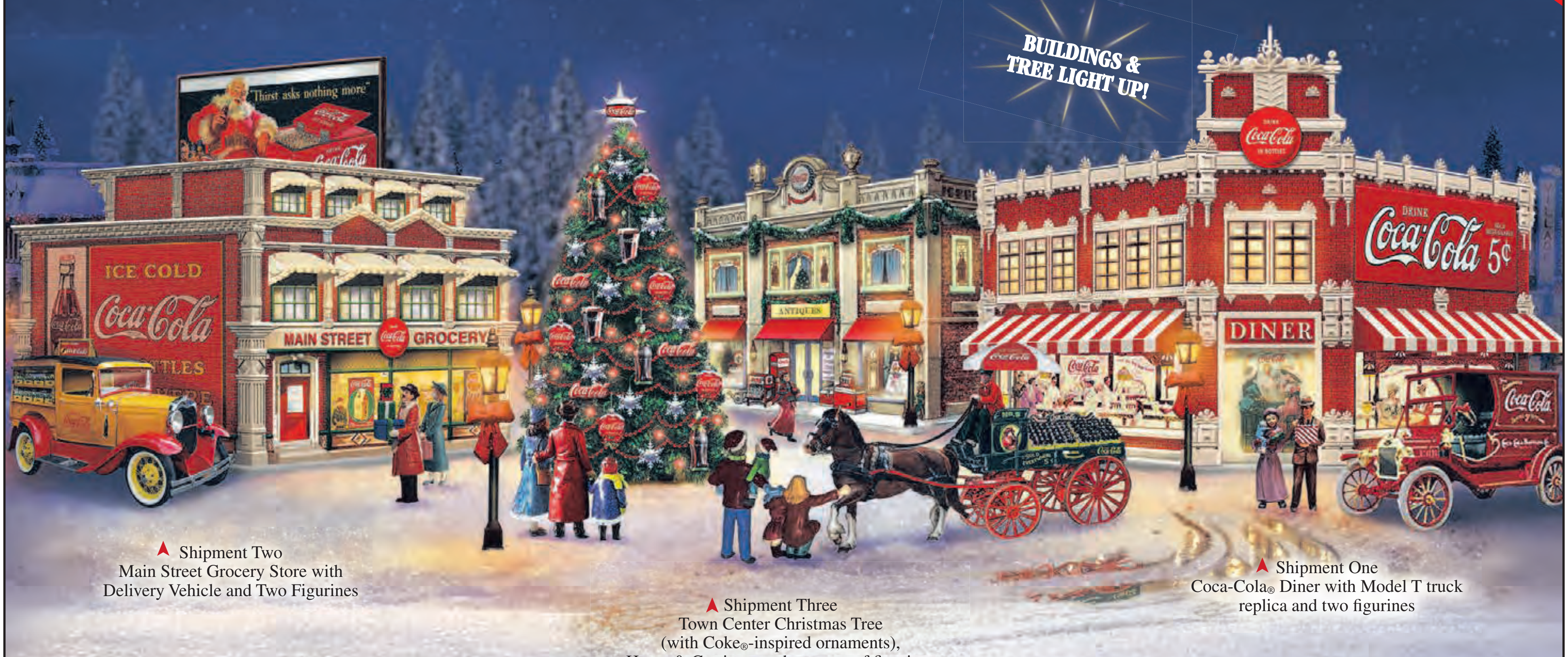

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‘Swap’ stars Tay & Madge

New tacky titlist

JOHNNY OLEKSINSKI

FREAKY FRIDAY: Madonna puts out her best album in years on the same day that Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce hold a tacky Madison Square Garden wedding.

GC Images; Instagram/ Taylor Swift

WE live in strange and confusing times.

Up is down. Day is night. Madonna is acclaimed. Taylor Swift is a circus act. It’s a veritable pop bizarro world.

On Friday, 67-year-old Madge surprised everybody by releasing her first good album in 21 years, “Confessions II,” after a long string of clunkers and tasteless, embarrassing stunts.

Mad. Square Garish

The record has rolled in like a prayer. During a sweltering summer that’s been depressingly light on fresh dance-floor hits, we finally got some rhapsodic ones from a star who’s been with us for more than four decades.

And then, spookily on that very same day, 36-year-old Taylor wedded Travis Kelce at a small and unassuming venue called Madison Square Garden — an object lesson in tackiness.

The day of Madge and Tay’s abrupt switcheroo will henceforth be known as Freaky Friday.

When Page Six broke the shocking news of Taylor’s diabolical wedding plan back in April, fans were in total disbelief. How could she possibly do this? A Swiftie friend at a rival publication told me, “That’s not happening.” Well, it did. And nobody, save for the rich and powerful guests, is very happy about it.

Why would they be? Streets next to Penn Station, the busiest transit hub in North America, were blocked for two days for a celebrity marriage attended by 1,000 or so of the couple’s closest friends and wealthiest benefactors.

More than 100 NYPD cops (that Swift reportedly will pay for) were diverted to her nuptials on a weekend when hordes of New Yorkers set off explosives in the road while binge drinking. Gee, thanks!

Reports on the decor varied. Some said the couple was building a castle inside MSG. Others said they’re creating a garden. I say, eh, it’s garish all the same.

Up till now, music’s reigning Queen of Tawdry Displays had been Madonna.

Remember three years ago when Madge released a piece of digital art depicting a tree grossly emerging from her, uh, material girl?

Or the time during the 2016 Rebel Heart tour when she went on unhinged rants and ordered two Cosmopolitans to the stage?

Obviously, there’s the pileup of 20-something boyfriends and her Quixotic obsession with youth.

Back in Vogue

But the countless desperate attention grabs fade into the background when Madonna releases fantastic music. That’s what the people want, not a weird descent into Madgeness. Her latest album, her best since 2025’s “Confessions in a Dancefloor,” has some infectious tunes, especially “Danceteria,” “Love Sensation” and “Bring Your Love.” At almost 70 years old, she’s still got it.

Meanwhile, the signs outside MSG blared: “JUST&T MARRIED,” like Taylor and Travis think they’re the romantic equivalent of the Knicks and wanted a standing ovation from the sweaty plebs outside.

How stunningly out of touch they are.

Madonna, however, is back in Vogue. The singer first moved to New York from Detroit in 1978 and it’s here where she broke out into the music industry.

You can hear the city and that decade’s influence on her new songs — particularly “Danceteria.”

Madonna is a true New Yorker, and there is something that even she would never, do: Get married at Madison Square Garden.

OBITUARY

NAPOLI, PAUL J. on 6/30/26, formerly of Brookville. Loving husband, father, son, brother, and friend to many. Visitation at **The Fairchild Chapel 1570 Northern Blvd, Manhasset** on **Tuesday July 7th** from **2-5 & 7-9pm** Funeral mass **Wednseday July 8th, St Mary’s RC Church 1300 Northern Blvd, Manhasset** at **10:15 AM**. Entombment to follow at **St Charles Cemetery, Farmingdale NY**. Lunch to follow. Donations in his memory may be made to **Bonemarrow.org**.

WH trolls Swift

The White House on Friday trolled newlyweds Taylor Swift and Travis Kelce in a social-media post spoofing their Madison Square Garden marriage announcement.

“IT’S HAPPENED!!!” the White House posted on X, including a fake image of massive purple digital signs outside the Garden reading, “Trump is your president.”

The post was a spoof of the “JUST&T MARRIED!” messages posted outside the Big Apple arena letting the public know the couple had exchanged their “I do’s.”

Two years ago, President Trump declared that he hated Swift in a social-media post shortly after the “Bad Blood” singer endorsed former Vice President Kamala Harris in the 2024 election. *Victor Nava*

Anthropic sued

More than 100 fed-up authors are demanding over $75 million from San Francisco-based AI behemoth Anthropic, which they claim stole their books to train its systems.

The lawsuit filed in Northern California District Court on June 17 accused Anthropic, which partners with major companies like Microsoft and Amazon, of brazenly using more than 500 pirated books to feed its AI.

The company allegedly infringed the copyright of at least 100 authors, including Atari co-founder Nolan Bushnell, Academy Award-nominated JFK screenwriter Zachary Sklar and Newbery Medal-winner Donna Barba Higuera. The scorned writers are demanding $150,000 per pirated piece, according to the filing. *Sonya Gugliara*

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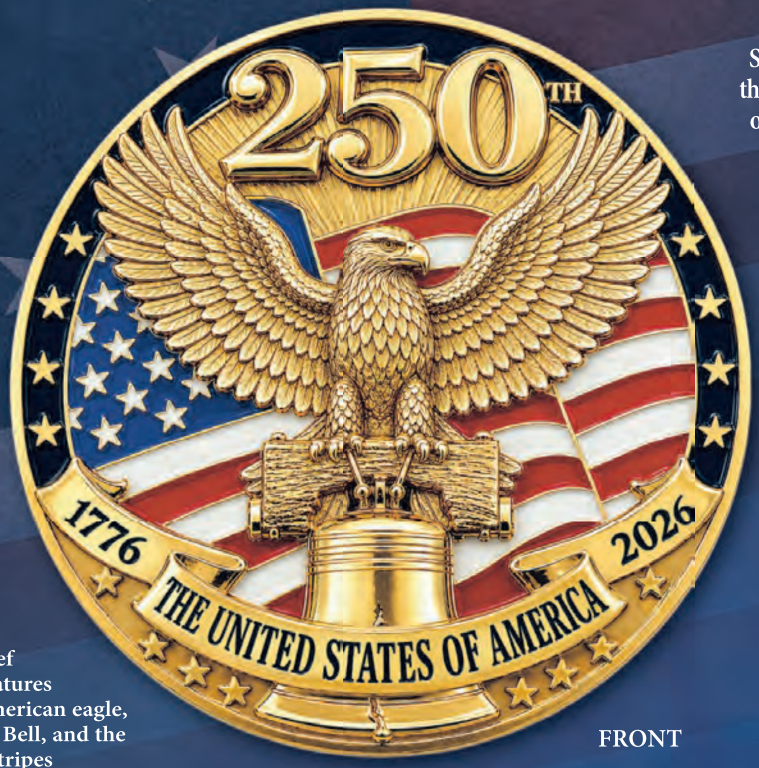

Raised-relief imagery features a proud American eagle, the Liberty Bell, and the Stars and Stripes

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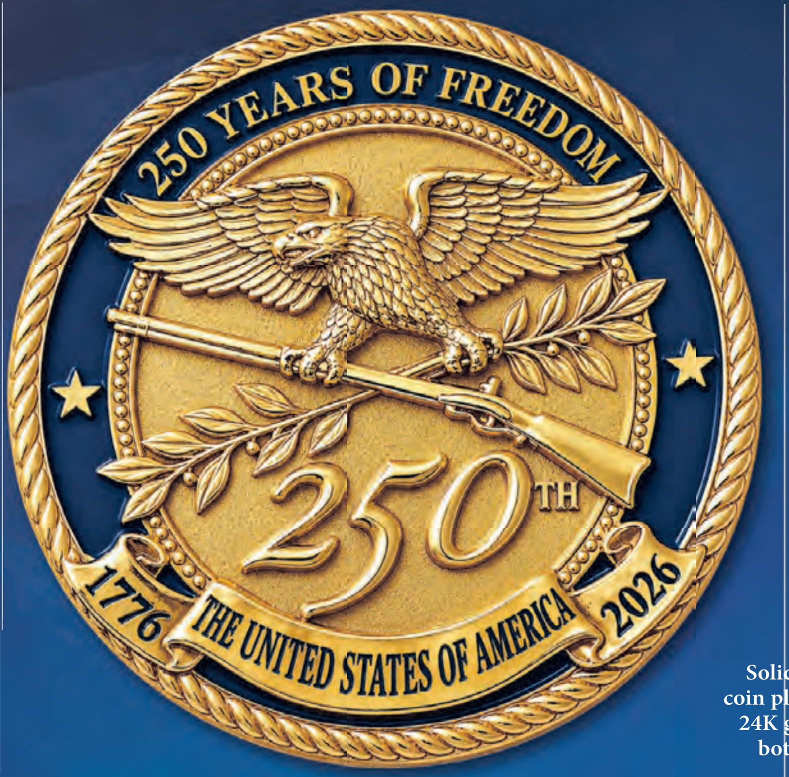

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YOU DESERVE TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

How Zionism's Miracle Benefits Us All

Zionism stands for a robust democracy: Proud national identity, civil liberties, rule of law, and the right of all peoples—not just Israel—to a secure national home.

While antisemites curse Zionism, the movement's spirit has helped Jews survive hate and persecution for 3,000 years—emerging as Israel, one of the world's strongest nations—inspiring others to achieve freedom, prosperity and happiness.

What are the facts?

In just the last century, Zionism has propelled the world's tiny population of Jews to overcome millennia of discrimination and near annihilation to become a powerful global contributor—politically, economically, technologically and socially. Yet, while Zionism is the movement supporting Jewish self-determination—and the State of Israel—it also offers values and practices that both aspiring and established nations can use to achieve greater liberation. While many of the world's peoples and states suffer malaise and decline, Israel is thriving.

Secrets of Zionism's miraculous success. Devoid of natural resources, rising from the devastation of the Holocaust, surrounded and attacked constantly by hostile neighbors and defamed widely by the UN and other haters, tiny Israel—with a population of just 10 million—has defied all expectations. Its unprecedented accomplishments—world-class economic prosperity, a robust democracy, a resilient social fabric and outsized international influence—stem from Zionism's powerful culture of optimism, ingenuity and determination.

Zionism's attackers betray humanity.

Economic Powerhouse: From near poverty at birth in 1948, Israel's GDP today exceeds $560 billion, and its per-capita income has reached $58,000, placing it among the world's 15 top economies. Israel boasts more "unicorns"—start-ups valued over $1 billion—per capita than any other country. High-tech exports account for over 50% of industrial output, and Israel spends more than 5.6% of GDP on research and development—the highest rate globally. In the past year, in the midst of several wars, Israel's Tel Aviv Stock Exchange outperformed all others worldwide.

Exceptional Political Freedoms: Israel stands alone as the Middle East's only liberal democracy—holding regular free elections and guaranteeing equal civil liberties for all citizens, including its 20% Arab population, and wide-ranging civil rights for women and LGBTQ people. Israel's boisterous multiparty system represents all major ethnic and religious groups, and its independent judiciary is ranked among the world's fairest and most liberal.

Vibrant, Diverse Society: Israel is by far the Middle East's most multicultural nation, including citizens with roots in Muslim, Christian and Jewish cultures, as well as significant populations with Middle Eastern, African, European, and North and South American backgrounds. Its life-expectancy of 83 years ranks it in the top tier globally, and its high birthrate ranks in the top five among developed nations. Despite wars, raging antisemitism and outsized criticism of Jewish state, Israelis are the 8th happiest people on earth.

Growing Global Influencer. Over its 78 years, Israel has dramatically increased cooperation with its Arab neighbors, enjoying peace with Jordan and Egypt and, through the Abraham Accords, alliances with Bahrain, Morocco and the United Arab Emirates. In 2026, Israel and Argentina launched the Isaac Accords, to enable broad military, economic and diplomatic cooperation, expanding Israel's influence in South America. Israel's military is today ranked 15th in the Global Firepower Index, among the world's strongest, despite its small size and population. Its military and cybersecurity industries are also world leaders. Israelis have won more Nobel prizes per capita than any other nation.

How a strong, secure Israel promotes national liberation. Israel is one of the world's great bastions of democratic values. By its efforts to defeat autocratic Islamist enemies—such as Iran and its proxies Hamas, Hezbollah and the Houthis—it supports the liberation and security of neighbors Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. Israel also assists such democratic nations as Germany, Greece, Finland, Slovakia and Serbia advance their defenses against terrorism.

Enemies of Zionism are enemies of human progress. Zionism is the spirit—of optimism, ingenuity and determination—that drove Israel's birth and today drives its growth and support of other nations. Despite world-class contributions to religion, medicine, agriculture, science, and philanthropy, the Jewish people have for ages been falsely accused of blood libels, controlling economies, colonialism, genocide and apartheid. Though Israel is surrounded by enemies, maligned by celebrities, academics and politicians, boycotted and slandered, it has accomplished miracles that have indisputably advanced not only the Jewish state . . . but humanity itself.

***One can only conclude** that attacks against Jews, Israel and Zionism spring from disbelief and perhaps even jealousy. The everlasting shame is that attempts to destroy Zionism and its many transformative benefits only serve to undermine the flowering of greater freedom and well-being for the world's people.*

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They survived a shipwreck — and a shark attack
P. 42-43

BORN YESTERDAY

After SCOTUS' ruling in Trump v. Barbara, we can't be taken for fools when it comes to the definition of citizenship eligibility

BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP IS A RIGHT
ACLU Maine
BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP IS A RIGHT

Birthright citizenship supporters protest at the Supreme Court before it maintained that the foreigners' children born on US soil are citizens, nixing President Trump's executive order.

Getty Images

PAUL DU QUENOY

'All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside," states the Fourteenth Amendment.

But are those whose parents are here temporarily as tourists or illegally because they have snuck across the border or overstayed a visa really "subject to the jurisdiction thereof"?

To the Supreme Court, yes.

The bench ruled in a 5-4 decision that the clause grants unrestricted citizenship to virtually all individuals born on American soil. Practically speaking, the only newborns excepted are those of foreign diplomats.

The ruling voids President Trump's executive order barring citizenship to children born of parents present illegally or on a lawful but temporary basis. That includes as many as 250,000 babies a year.

Conceived in the aftermath of the Civil War, the citizenship clause was written to ensure that freed slaves and their children counted as citizens. It was not written to enable "birth tourism" or the barbarous "surrogacy networks." These schemes cater to foreigners specifically to produce American citizens — or worse, to sneak in children of hostile foreigners.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson used hip-hop slang in her opinion favoring this travesty of a ruling. The creators of the Fourteenth Amendment "understood the assignment," she wrote, referring to a song by the rapper Tay Money. The "assignment," in Jackson's view, appears to be to import as many new Democratic voters as possible, since the left can't seem to win with the native-born population.

Justice Clarence Thomas has a better understanding of the citizenship clause. He notes that it gives luster to the idea of American citizenship. Unfortunately, as he adds in his dissenting opinion, the court's ruling "devalues" that very citizenship.

The Supreme Court's ruling runs against the prevailing sentiments of most Americans. A May Harvard/Harris poll shows 56% of the country favors the deportation of all illegal immigrants. Some thinkers who believe America should be allowed to protect its own borders are predicting the end of America as we know it. "If your ruling requires you to suicide your civilization," White House adviser Stephen Miller told Fox News, "your reading of the Constitution is wrong."

But solutions can be found. The most obvious move — though it's a longshot — would be for Congress to adopt an amendment redefining citizenship eligibility in unambiguous terms to exclude those who come here illegally or temporarily. Sen Rand Paul (R-Ky.) proposed such an amendment in April.

If adopted, his amendment would narrow the category of individuals "subject to the jurisdiction of the United States" to US citizens and foreign nationals who have permanent and active residency or who serve in the military. Thus, only the children of those people would get birthright citizenship.

This more focused definition would align US policy on birthright citizenship with that of about 170 other countries, including all of our adversaries, who do not allow it.

Simpler solutions are possible too. President Trump has suggested he would support legislation to make the circumstances that allow for birthright citizenship harder. This already includes, for example, limiting illegal border crossings, which have been practically eliminated in his second term. You can't drop an anchor baby here if you can't get here in the first place. And he has overseen some 3 million repatriations — voluntary or otherwise — since returning to office and promises more.

And more can be done. On the same day as the Supreme Court's ruling, Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) announced his "Anchors Away Act." This would prohibit pregnant foreigners from entering the country. There's precedent for such a move — immigration officers can deny a woman entry if they believe her reason for entry is birth tourism. The Justice Department issued a memo the same day urging the prosecution of unlawful birth-tourism schemes.

The Supreme Court's ruling may have sold out the country's national interest. But Republicans should understand their assignment.

Paul du Quenoy is president of the Palm Beach Freedom Institute.

HOT TOPIC

America learned long ago that air conditioning saves lives. Why does Europe remain so stubborn?

BETHANY MANDEL

France is struggling through a heat wave with fountains and water spraying, while resisting AC.

AP

DURING his inaugural speech on Jan. 1, Mayor Mamdani declared, "We will replace the frigidity of rugged individualism with the warmth of collectivism."

It certainly feels warm these days.

As temperatures climbed during the heat wave that blanketed much of the eastern United States, the mayor took to social media with a familiar message from the government. "New York: it's hot out there, and the power grid is working overtime to keep us cool," he tweeted. "Set your AC to 78 degrees, turn off lights/electronics you're not using, and unplug what you can."

This is the real face of the political left: Individual comfort and convenience should be subordinated to collective priorities, with government officials deciding how much energy ordinary people ought to consume.

Over the pond in Europe, we are seeing the effects of that warm glow of collectivism in full force. Decades of climate policy, energy restrictions and cultural hostility toward air conditioning have left millions of Europeans sweltering without one of the greatest public health innovations of the modern age.

They are trying to stay cool with fire trucks spraying water in public squares and parks. Even hospitals and the homes of medically fragile individuals are overheating.

In a Wall Street Journal report on the continent's heat wave, the paper introduced Luca Funaro, a 32-year-old Parisian with a rare genetic illness who relies on both a wheelchair and a ventilator. Despite his condition, his neighbors have spent two years blocking his request to install an air-conditioning unit in his apartment courtyard because they say it would be too loud. His family has spent thousands of dollars fighting them in court while he endures record-breaking heat.

It is hard to imagine a clearer illustration of the cruelty of collectivism in practice.

A healthy group of neighbors has decided that one disabled man's ability to breathe comfortably matters less than preserving their preferred aesthetic and soundscape. They insist they are acting for the common good. The person who bears the greatest burden is the one least capable of bearing it.

And the price is being counted in bodies.

The only reliably cool buildings in parts of Paris are its morgues. Funeral homes and mortuaries in and around the French capital have been overwhelmed in recent weeks, with some running out of refrigerated space for the dead. France recorded roughly 1,000 excess deaths during the peak of the heat wave, most of them among the elderly.

This is the absurdity of Europe's climate regime. After spending fortunes on emissions targets, regulations and green-energy schemes, officials are still reduced to medieval improvisation when the weather turns dangerous: Spray water in the square and hope the old people make it through the night.

Ironically, many American progressives openly aspire to recreate Europe's model.

Sen. Bernie Sanders responded to the heat wave by tweeting, "Europe is suffering through its worst heat wave in recorded history. This week, 3 dozen U.S. states will likely see record-breaking temperatures. No, Mr. Trump. Climate change is not a 'hoax.' We must stop fossil fuel industry greed and save the planet."

Sanders is right about one thing. Europe offers an important lesson. Just not the one he intends.

The lesson is that wealthy societies survive climate extremes by adapting to them. Americans adapted to hot summers with widespread air conditioning, modern electrical grids, affordable energy and buildings designed to keep people alive when temperatures soar.

Europe chose a different path.

There is something almost perversely petty about these policies.

According to MIT, heating buildings contributes significantly more to greenhouse gas emissions than cooling them. Yet no serious European politician is proposing that families give up artificial heat in January.

Americans shouldn't be too smug, though. We have our own version of climate dogma.

The very reason New York City's electrical grid is straining under the weight of millions of air conditioners is because Democrats spent years crusading to shutter the Indian Point nuclear power plant, finally succeeding in 2020 and 2021. Indian Point supplied roughly a quarter of New York City's electricity without emitting carbon dioxide.

It wasn't replaced by windmills or solar panels. It was replaced almost one-for-one by natural gas. New York lost one of the cleanest, most reliable sources of electricity it had just as electrification became the centerpiece of the state's climate agenda.

The result is almost comical: Politicians lecture New Yorkers to conserve electricity during heat waves because they eliminated the carbon-free power plant that helped make abundant electricity possible in the first place.

This is not science. It is ideology.

And like most ideological projects, it comes wrapped in paternalism. Ordinary people cannot be trusted to decide what they need.

Europe's leaders prefer to congratulate themselves on their moral superiority. But there is nothing virtuous about a policy regime that makes people less able to survive the world as it actually exists.

At this rate, they may kill more people in the name of fighting climate change than climate change would kill in societies allowed to adapt to it.

That is the warm glow of collectivism.

Bethany Mandel writes and podcasts at "The Mom Wars."

Chatter

'[Hakeem] Jeffries will have to start calling members "comrade" during caucus meetings come January.'

— a House Democratic staffer on the DSA's successes

'I can cut your electric bill in half, day one, when I become governor.'

— Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman as NY battles a heatwave

'I was given the diagnosis of depression . . . it is difficult to fully understand how powerful this illness can be.'

— Rep. Tom Kean Jr. (R-NJ) explains his nearly four-month absence

'People look to Theodore Roosevelt and they see what they want America to be. He's . . . like a Rorschach test.'

— Ed O'Keefe, CEO of the new Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library

The new US aid

Response to Venezuela crisis proves America can still help in ways that really count

MAX PRIMORAC

CRITICS of President Trump insist that his administration has bungled its response to the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela. They blame his dismantling of the US Agency for International Development. But those critics are wrong.

USAID led America's humanitarian disaster response for years. But after the Biden administration turned the agency irreparably woke, Trump handed most of those responsibilities to the State Department. The reaction was predictably strident. "The evisceration of USAID," said one critic, "will hamper the capacity of international relief agencies." Another claimed that the nation had "lost the capability to deploy search and rescue."

As the federal lead for global disaster response, I oversaw aid for earthquakes, hurricanes, Ebola outbreaks, the Beirut port explosion and massive war-related migrations. I know what competent emergency response looks like. It looks like what the United States is doing in Venezuela.

The essential elements for successful emergency responses remain intact: first responders, known as Disaster Assistance Response Teams, regional support hubs, nearby warehousing for storing large-scale food and nonfood aid, search-and-rescue tools, and most importantly, a hand-in-glove relationship with the US Department of War that provides our civilian response with military aircraft, communications, logistics support and critical armed security. All are in place and were smoothly deployed within hours of the devastating earthquakes.

The US rushed support to Venezuela after it was hit by earthquakes (below).

Getty Images, AP

A robust 300-person team arrived almost immediately in Venezuela, along with a commitment of $300 million in aid. That sum is huge. It's in line with President Trump's "full commitment to being supportive of Venezuela."

As the Department of State tweeted: "The United States' response . . . is big, fast, effective, and ongoing.

Most impressive is how President Trump is using foreign aid as an effective tool of national security. Whereas the Biden administration used USAID to impose radical social ideas — funding drag shows in Ecuador and condoms for the Taliban — the Trump approach is to ensure that foreign aid is always aligned with American interests and values.

Consider: Had President Trump not disposed of Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro in January, our response to the earthquakes would have been seriously curtailed. Maduro's deposition allowed America to restore billions of dollars in domestic oil revenues in the lead-up to these quakes, easing the country's economic crisis.

And now that the country is free of its anti-American tyrant, our War Department is able to create a secure global humanitarian construct that makes full use of our military and logistical technology — especially C-130s and Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters that can swiftly airlift personnel, medicine, food and water to desperate communities. US military assets would never have been permitted to enter the Maduro regime's borders.

Venezuela's allies under the old regime — Communist China, Russia, and Iran — do not do humanitarian aid. They would have left the Venezuelan people behind.

The potential for even greater disaster — hunger, social unrest, disease — has been stemmed. Innumerable lives have been saved, and Venezuela's neighbors will be free of destabilizing mass migration. In retrospect, President Trump's removal of Maduro betrays a providential hand.

The administration's plans for Venezuela's complete transition to democratic self-governance will now have to be expedited. Remnants of Maduro's corrupt regime still exist. They're proving themselves incapable of adequately responding to the tasks of rescue and reconstruction. Venezuelans are discovering how many corrupt officials over the years took bribes and issued construction permits for buildings that were not earthquake resistant.

The White House has ably managed its relationships with both the regime and opposition and is well placed to help Venezuelans craft a quicker transition plan to hold free elections, dismantle corrupting and disastrous socialist economic policies, and reintegrate the country back into our hemispheres fold of democracies.

Far from criticizing President Trump, his critics ought to thank him.

Max Primorac is a senior research fellow at the Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation. He is a former senior aid official in the previous Trump and George W. Bush administrations.

DREAMERS

Two-thirds of US residents believe in the American dream. Share who said they

28%
achieved the American dream

39%
were "on the way" to achieving it

33%
believe it is "out of reach"

Source: Archbridge Institute

'We're seeing nationally less trust for vaccines than we did in the past.'

— Johns Hopkins associate professor Geeta Sood on a rise in US influenza deaths

COURT-ING CONTROVERSY

'Every biological male who wins a race takes the gold medal away from a female athlete.'

— Justice Brett Kavanaugh on Supreme Court upholding states' bans on trans athletes in women's sports

'Citizenship . . . The Framers of the Fourteenth Amendment extended that promise to "every free-born person in this land." We keep that promise today.'

— Chief Justice John Roberts on protecting birthright citizenship

SOCIALIST DEMOCRATS

Share of Democrats who _____ democratic socialist politicians:

Like
32%

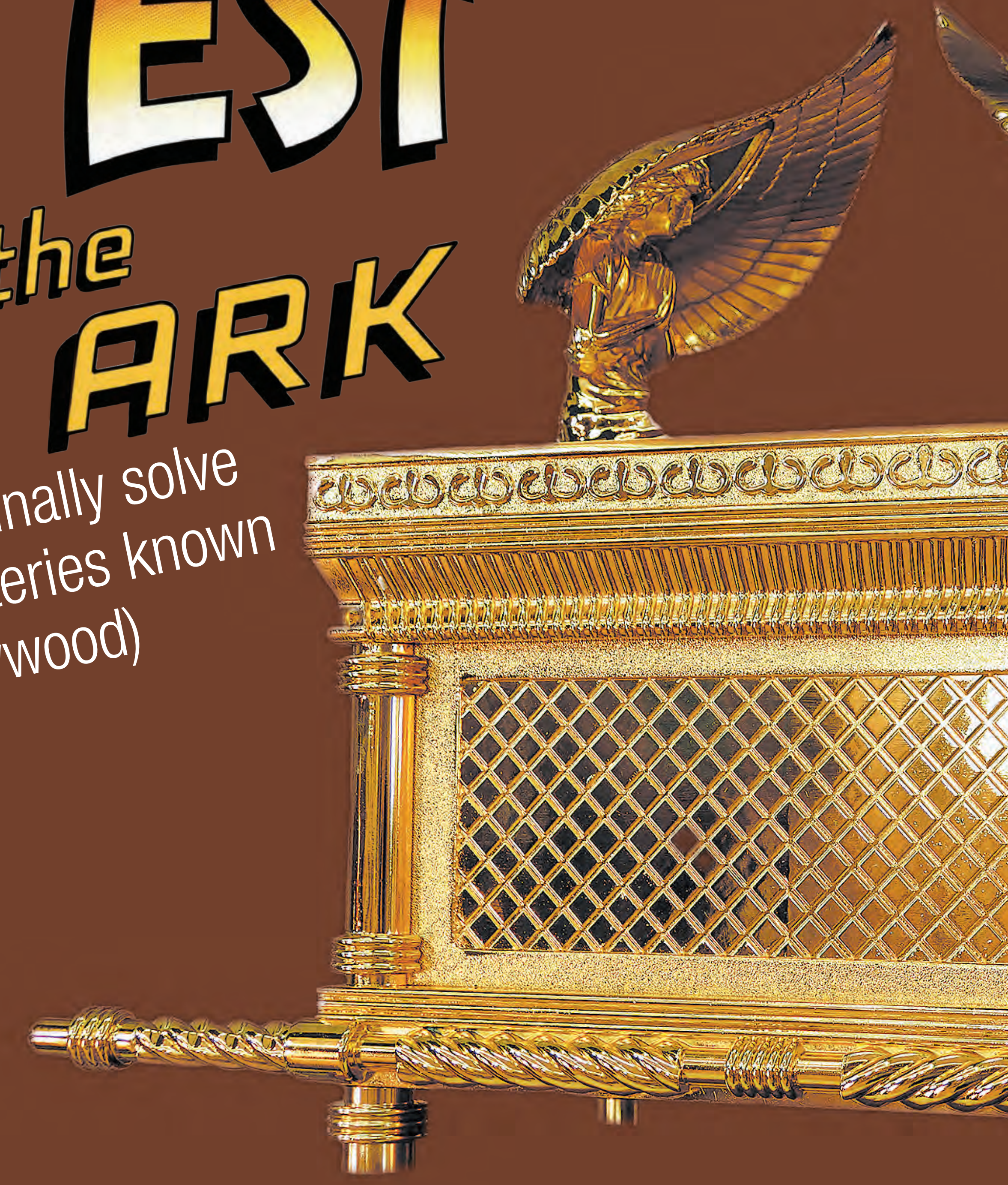
Dislike
11%

Neither like nor dislike:
59%

Source: Pew

LATEST on the LOST ARK

New technology might finally solve one of the greatest mysteries known to man (and Hollywood)


Courtesy of the Tel Burna Archaeological Project, Getty Images

by MIKE AVILA

COULD modern technology help solve the 2,600-year-old mystery of the Lost Ark of the Covenant? Archeologist Chris McKinny believes so, and unlike Indiana Jones, he's not making it up as he goes along. "I'm not just grabbing a shovel and going to Jerusalem to dig for treasure," he says.

McKinny, an associate professor at the Lanier Center for Archeology at Lipscomb University in Tennessee, has studied biblical texts and history for years and determined that the Ark's final resting place could be in Jerusalem beneath the City of David, just south of the Dome of the Rock. His theory is discussed in detail in the recently released streaming documentary "Legends of the Lost Ark," in which McKinny serves as host.

The film explores the legends surrounding the Ark's possible locations after it disappeared following the Babylonian sacking of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. According to lore, the prophet Jeremiah went to great lengths to hide the Ark from invaders. The most popular theory holds that he buried the artifact in the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

The City of David, the heart of Jerusalem, is a key archeological hub, dating back over 3,000 years. It is where King David established his capital and is considered the birthplace of Jerusalem. The Temple Mount is north of the City of David and is overseen by the Jerusalem Islamic Waqf, a Jordanian-appointed religious trust. Despite all the excavation done in the surrounding areas, the Temple Mount remains, according to McKinny, an archeological mystery due to the difficulty of digging in such a sensitive area where the relics of historical eras are literally stacked on top of each other.

"We've mapped huge portions of . . . the City of David. We probably know more about Jerusalem's archaeology than any other city on Earth, except maybe Rome and Athens," McKinny says. "But the pinnacle, the reason people care in the first place, is the Temple Mount. And there, we only have a few hours' worth of observations from 150 years ago and whatever we can get out of dumped rubble. When it comes to the Temple Mount, the part people care about most, we have almost nothing. It's a black hole."

McKinny is optimistic that emerging technology will allow him and his team to digitally scan underground spaces beneath the Temple Mount, without disturbing sensitive territory. The archeologist suggests muon detectors, which track subatomic particles that come from cosmic rays striking our atmosphere, will be able to identify underground aqueducts, tunnels, chambers and concealed spaces. These cosmic-radiation devices were created by a team of researchers at Tel Aviv University led by renowned physicist Erez Etzion. The detectors can be used to scan earth and reveal hidden voids beneath rocks at ancient sites such as the Temple Mount.

PROFESSOR Etzion says muon detectors can make archeological digs more efficient by doing much of the work before a shovel ever hits the dirt.

"The goal is to actually come before the excavation even starts and place detectors below the ground, map the area, do an imaging of the underground," he says. "So this is kind of an EKG before you actually do the heart surgery."

McKinny says, "We've already demonstrated the proof of concept in the City of David. They put a detector in one chamber and showed they could 'see' a known cavern on the other side, and even picked up a small tunnel they hadn't noticed before."

The dream, according to McKinny, is to line the western and southern outer walls of the Temple Mount with muon detectors and let them passively scan into the rock and fill behind the retaining walls.

As fond as he is of the potential of this new technology, McKinny says there will always be a need for archeologists to get their hands dirty in the quest for history.

"Technology is slowly catching up but archeology is by nature destructive," McKinny says. "We're never going to come to a time where we can approach an ancient site, press a button and know everything about it. We have to get our hands dirty. There's going to always be sweat . . . always going to be a certain level of manual labor involved."

Anyone who's seen the 1981 Harrison Ford classic "Raiders of the Lost Ark" knows the common perception is that the Ark is a gold-plated, highly ornate box said to contain the tablets of the 10 Commandments.

"Raiders of the Lost Ark" (above) introduced the Arc as an ornate golden box said to contain the tablets of the 10 Commandments. Today, experts disagree on whether the Arc is buried within Jerusalem's Temple Mount. Some doubt it even exists at all.

Archeologist Chris McKinny (above) hopes to use new tech — muon detectors, which track cosmic radiation — will help penetrate the culturally sensitive "black hole" of the Temple Mount, and maybe locate the Arc of the Covenant.

Some observers, including McKinny, suggest the Ark could be detected somewhere below tons of rock, with the gold acting as a trigger for the muon detectors.

"I asked Erez point-blank, 'Can this detect gold?' " he said. "His answer was yes, in principle, muons are sensitive to both voids and very dense anomalies. In that sense, gold is your friend."

But Etzion sounds more hesitant regarding the ability to make such a discovery.

The muon detection system, he notes, measures density, not metal, and works best for big contrasts: huge empty spaces versus solid rock, or massive dense bodies versus lighter surroundings. A thin layer of gold over a wooden chest, buried under tons of limestone, is not exactly a neon sign.

"If you have a huge gold mine, then there's a chance that the detectors will react, it will absorb more muons than normal . . . and therefore there's a chance that you'll be able to detect it," Etzion says. "But if you're talking about a small amount of gold, something that is gold plated, then there's no way to actually distinguish between that. So kind of a thin layer of gold will do nothing to the muons."

NO active digging at the Temple Mount is underway yet. And before it begins, many political and financial hurdles will have to be overcome. A set of muon scanners that could work at excavation sites currently costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. But Etzion is hopeful that the devices would eventually pay for themselves.

"I think at the end of the day we'll be able to build something which is pretty generic," Etzion says. "And they can be moved from one [location] to the other."

For McKinny, the quest is about more than just discovering arguably history's greatest artifact.

"The Ark is the big shiny object at the center, like the One Ring in "The Lord of the Rings,' " he says. "My first impulse is not, 'Let's go find it.' It's, 'Why did people write these legends? What are they saying? How do they interact with the Bible's own story?' "

There is no shortage of skeptics who think the search for the Ark is a fool's errand, however.

Dr. Jeremiah Johnston, an author, pastor and president of the Christian Thinkers Society, says the "body of evidence" points to the Ark being destroyed or lost forever in the Babylonian catastrophe.

"The Ark now holds no spiritual significance because the Ark as a symbol was completely fulfilled in Christ," Johnston says. "I do not believe the ark will be found."

He adds that, for Christians, the New Testament presents Jesus as fulfilling and superseding what the Ark symbolized.

Tudor Parfitt, a British scholar and current professor at Florida International University, once wrote a book on the search for the Ark.

Ask him his thoughts on whether it will ever be found, and he does not mince words.

"They're not going to find it," Parfitt says. "The most probable conclusion is it does not exist anymore as a recoverable object."

According to Parfitt, there is simply no plausible evidence to indicate the Ark exists.

He says the fascination with the biblical artifact persists because of the various conspiracy theories that dot the Internet.

"There are many legends about the Ark of the Covenant in different cultures," he says. "But I'm a sensible person, and most Ark stories, and the people who chase them, are not sensible."

Despite the naysayers, McKinny remains optimistic that history is within reach.

But whether it is thanks to muon detectors or divine intervention, if the Ark is discovered, McKinny is certain of one thing.

"I won't be the one opening it," he says. "I've seen [Spielberg's] movie."

NEW YORK POST
AMERICA'S OLDEST CONTINUOUSLY PUBLISHED DAILY NEWSPAPER

America's *Next* 250

Two hundred fifty years are officially under the nation's belt; it's now time figure out how to ensure another 250 — and more.

The good news? Polls show Americans still take a great deal of pride in their country. Gallup just reported a full 64% are proud of it, including a solid majority, 53%, who say they're "very" or "extremely" proud. The Archbridge Institute, meanwhile, found 67% say they've achieved the American Dream or are on their way to it.

The bad news? Those numbers have fallen during during the past two decades. And it's crystal clear who dragged them down: *Democrats*.

Per Gallup, the share of Republicans who say they're "extremely proud" to be an American (70%) is actually a bit *higher* than for most of the last 20 years. Yet only 14% of Democrats today are "extremely proud," down from 65% in 2003. (Independents have also soured.)

With most of the Dems' downward spiral taking place after 2015, the reasons are as obvious. Mainstream Dems have suffered a decade-plus case of Trump Derangement Syndrome, one so strong not even the Biden interregnum could cure it. According to them, right-wing fascism is around the corner. Republican "denialism" is threatening an imminent climate catastrophe. "White supremacy" beats in the heart of even well-meaning people. And all because of Orange Man Bad Hitler Epstein AIPAC.

Meanwhile, the Democratic Socialists of America and their fellow travelers openly *hate* the country — on principle. And they're increasingly taking over the Democratic Party.

By any rational measure, America has had the greatest run of any country ever over the past 250 years. But to last another 250 and beyond, we must get past the intense polarization and animosity.

Trump will be gone in 2½ years, but the hatred, divisions and policy shifts will linger. And, as the numbers show, it's *Democrats*, primarily, who must reclaim their love of country. They need to separate their view of Trump from that of America.

Their first order of business must be to roll back the wave of DSA radicals and other America-haters in their ranks. Resist the urge to cave, no matter how tempting it seems as a road to power. That way lies heartbreak — doom not only for Democrats but all Americans.

More: Stop trying change the nation's fundamental institutions — the nine-member Supreme Court, the Electoral College. No more "No Kings" lunacy and scuffles with ICE. End the "fight, fight, fight" theatrics and other incitements of violence.

Instead, do what Americans have done for 250 years: advance their agenda by using the nation's existing political system, which makes change possible — fairly and *democratically*.

Polarization brought this nation to the utter brink 166 years ago; 700,000 soldiers died before that crisis ended. But if America could survive that, Democrats can surely survive Orange Man — and work to save the country from oblivion.

Schools for Radicals

America's schools have failed miserably, judging by the comments of Melat Kiros, who just won a Democratic primary in Colorado and is a sure bet for Congress. If we fail to fix that system — and to dispel young folks of the absurd notion that America and Israel are, basically, at the root of all the world's problems — the nation faces big trouble ahead for sure.

Kiros, a member of the Democratic Socialists of America, won despite claiming that 9/11 was "inevitable" because the United States "destabilized a lot of the Middle East." Huh? 9/11 was part of a *global* Islamist campaign by al Qaeda.

In 2002, an al Qaeda-linked group detonated bombs in Bali, Indonesia, killing hundreds; what "destabilization" was that in response to? In 2004, another al Qaeda-linked group bombed trains in Madrid, killing almost 200 people: Was Spain "destabilizing" the Middle East? In 2005, an al Qaeda affiliate attacked the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El Sheikh; in 2008, it attacked a Marriott in Islamabad. What did any of those have to do with US "destabilization"?

It would be no surprise, of course, if Kiros got her skewed ideas from her schooling, since that's where they're pushed. But it's clear she has no idea what she's talking about when it comes to al Qaeda and 9/11. Ditto for her views on Israel and Oct. 7: On Hasan Piker's chat show, Kiros said Hamas' attack that day was also "inevitable."

Again, Oct. 7 was an attempted genocide, committed by a widely acknowledged Islamist terror cadre, with the help Iran. The barbarism was not in any way a response to Israeli policies. Besides, no government policies should ever be expected to trigger terror attacks on innocent civilians.

But again, such ignorant conceptions of the world don't materialize out of thin air; they're spread by American schools. Mayor Mamdani's father, for example, is a Columbia University professor who argues that the Arab-Israeli conflict is a clash "between settlers and the community they dispossessed," which stands Middle East history on its head — but kids buy it.

As Kiros, Mamdani and all the radicals are proving, US schools are turning terrorists into victims and victims into aggressors. If America is going to secure its future, it must start by fixing its schools.

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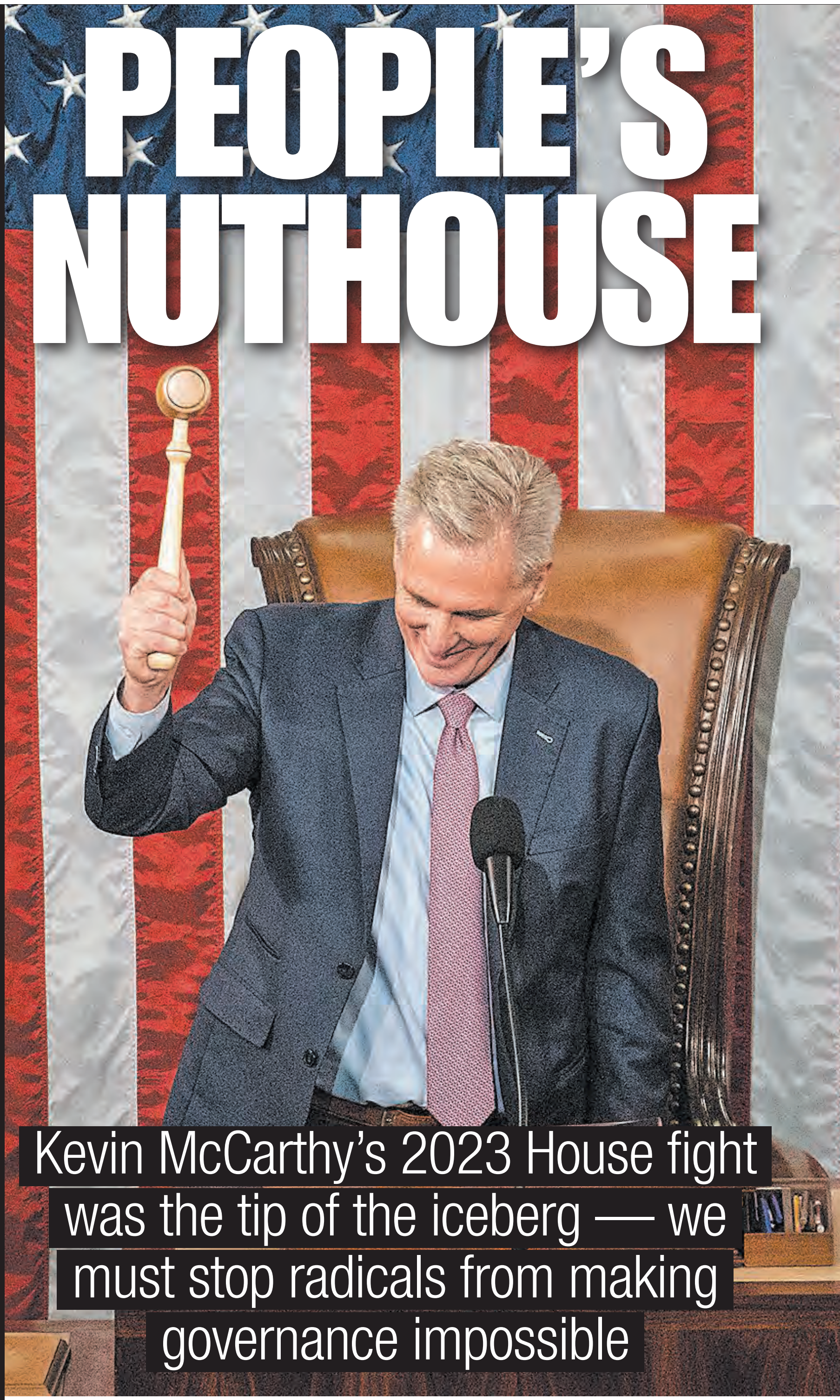


PEOPLE'S NUTHOUSE

Kevin McCarthy's 2023 House fight was the tip of the iceberg — we must stop radicals from making governance impossible

JOHN LEGANSKI

THIS Fourth of July marks America's 250th birthday, a milestone that reminds us just how durable our Constitution has been. For a quarter of a millennium, our system has endured wars, depressions and political upheaval because the Founders designed a structure both strong enough to absorb conflict and flexible enough to keep governing.

But one of our most important institutions has been changing in ways that should concern anyone who cares about how our republic functions. The House of Representatives — the People's House — is increasingly shifting away from a body that rewards coalition-building and towards one held hostage by radicals bent on making governance impossible.

I saw the craziness firsthand during Kevin McCarthy's historic 15-ballot election to become speaker of the House in January 2023, which I recount in my new book, "Glory, Grief, and the Gavel: An Inside Guide to Running for Speaker of the House." During that election — the longest speaker's contest since the Civil War — I served as McCarthy's deputy chief of staff and floor director.

Millions across the country and around the world tuned in to witness that rare spectacle of political endurance. You might recall the dramatic scenes on the House floor: of representa-

It took 15 ballots to elect Kevin McCarthy speaker of the House in 2023. Such political gridlock, the result of radicals on both sides, threatens to paralyze the House.

Getty Images

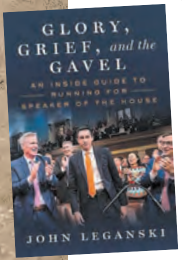
tives standing one-by-one, alphabetically, to announce their vote; of intense roaming huddles and hushed conversations; and of members almost, quite literally, coming to blows near the end. Even Pope Francis later confided in Kevin that he and his staff watched all 15 ballots from his offices in the Vatican.

That week certainly made for captivating television. But more importantly, what unfolded over the five-day fiasco made clear that the House has become a place where tiny factions exercise outsize control over the whole institution — and by extension, the whole country. Not because they command a majority, but because they can stop one.

Put differently, a small bloc inside the majority can now work, intentionally or not, alongside the minority party — whose political incentive is often to maximize dysfunction — and together grind the institution to a halt.

In the lead-up to our showdown, for example, conservative Rep. Chip Roy of Texas kept making the same point to me: "No one currently has 218" — a reference to the number of votes required to pass any given measure in the House. My response was simple: "It's not enough to just block 218. We also need to be able to build 218 — week in and week out this entire Congress."

This gridlock has not been confined to the McCarthy Era. In recent weeks, House Republicans have repeatedly been forced to cancel votes on key items tied to national security because small factions have chosen to cite leadership's inaction on a variety of bills as procedural grounds for blocking the broader House agenda.


GLORY, GRIEF, and the GAVEL
AN INSIDE GUIDE TO RUNNING FOR SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
JOHN LEGANSKI

That is a remarkable place for the institution to be: unable to advance core priorities because a handful of members are choosing to stop the process before it begins.

Worse still, this strain of parliamentary extremism appears to be spreading.

Look no further than the latest rounds of Democratic primaries in New York and Colorado, where democratic socialist candidates have scored major victories, adding to a growing ideological bloc on the far left that appears willing and eager to thwart their party leadership.

The lesson is the same for both parties: Narrow majorities make small factions more powerful, with profound ramifications not only for legislation, but also the leadership tasked with running the House.

Americans might think the fight for the speaker's gavel starts in January, when the new Congress is sworn in. That is incorrect. It starts now, in primaries and in the election of members who may ultimately decide whether the next speaker governs or drowns.

Every insurgent primary victory strengthens a bloc. Every ideological litmus test shrinks the room for compromise. The shape of the next Congress is being formed as we speak. And — regardless of party — the next speaker will almost certainly inherit the same stubborn math that tormented this one: razor-thin margins, hardened ideological factions and a chamber where a handful of members can dictate terms far beyond their numbers.

As America enters its 250th year, we should remember that what has sustained this republic for so long has never been unanimity, but governability. While our Constitution was intentionally designed to protect dissent, it was never meant to produce paralysis without end. Take note: If Congress cannot recover the proper balance, future speaker's battles and legislative showdowns may make our 2023 look tame by comparison.

John Leganski was the Deputy Chief of Staff to former Speaker Kevin McCarthy and is the author of "Glory, Grief, and the Gavel: An Inside Guide to Running for Speaker of the House" (Regnery), out now.

LETTERS

Dems' 'big tent'

It's interesting to listen to the hypocrites in the Democratic Party welcoming the likes of Graham Platner in Maine and the communist agitators in New York City as they achieve power ("A hateful horde has run amok," David Harsanyi, July 2).

Phonies like Sen. Cory Booker smile so weasel-like as they praise their party's "big tent." Question: If figures like Hitler, Stalin, and Mao were resurrected and sought to join-up, would that tent be big enough?

Myron Hecker, Pearl River

Stop bragging, Don

I do not want President Trump to keep bragging about how luxurious his gifted plane from Qatar is ("New Air Force One 1st flight," July 1).

I want him to have the same stuff everybody else who works in government has. Most Americans are struggling to make ends meet. They don't care if he flies in luxury.

Mindy Rader, New City

Lay off the goss

Allie Yang contends that "gossiping may give you an evolutionary advantage" when it comes to relationships, letting off steam or getting ahead, according to groundbreaking research ("Survival of the cattiest," July 2)?

I agree that sometimes gossip brings people closer together. However, it becomes harmful when the gossip is believed to be true and viciously spread, which is so often the case, thanks to social media and common sense being a thing of the past. This article is just another way of normalizing and pushing acceptance of bad behavior.

Michelle Tranchina, Brooklyn, Conn.

Sneaky Mamdani

Mayor Mamdani is showing his socialist chops and City Council Speaker Julie Menin was made to look like the fool she is ("Hizz late $neak attack on NYPD," July 2).

After he previously promised to hire an additional 580 police officers, he got her to agree to a ridiculous $125.8 billion budget.

Now will people realize just what is happening to our once-vibrant city? Every elected official that has an NYPD security detail should be stripped of it. They should decline the security so that those officers can patrol our streets to keep citizens safe.

Kim F. Cody, Whitestone

We need balance

The Supreme Court's ruling allowing President Trump to fire federal officials allows him to sink or swim on his mandate with no excuses ("Ruling is a rebalancing act for US," Jonathan Turley, June 30).

You want elected leaders to be able to select their teams. They need the unfettered right to hire and fire people who will deliver on stated policies. Otherwise, how can you truly hold them accountable?

I understand there must be independent agencies in government, but that's why checks and balances are in place to hold officials accountable if they overstep authority.

Larry Sylvester, Ontario, Canada

Empire State stunt

First and foremost, where was security when these two lovebirds ascended to the very peak of the Empire State Building ("He's 'Ring' Kong," July 2)?

These kissing daredevils could have had other ideas other than a marriage proposal; fortunately they meant no harm. It reminds me Philippe Petit's tightrope walk between the Twin Towers in 1974. For that he received a lifetime pass to the observation deck. I wonder what reward, if any, will go to these two.

Ron Zajicek, Cortlandt

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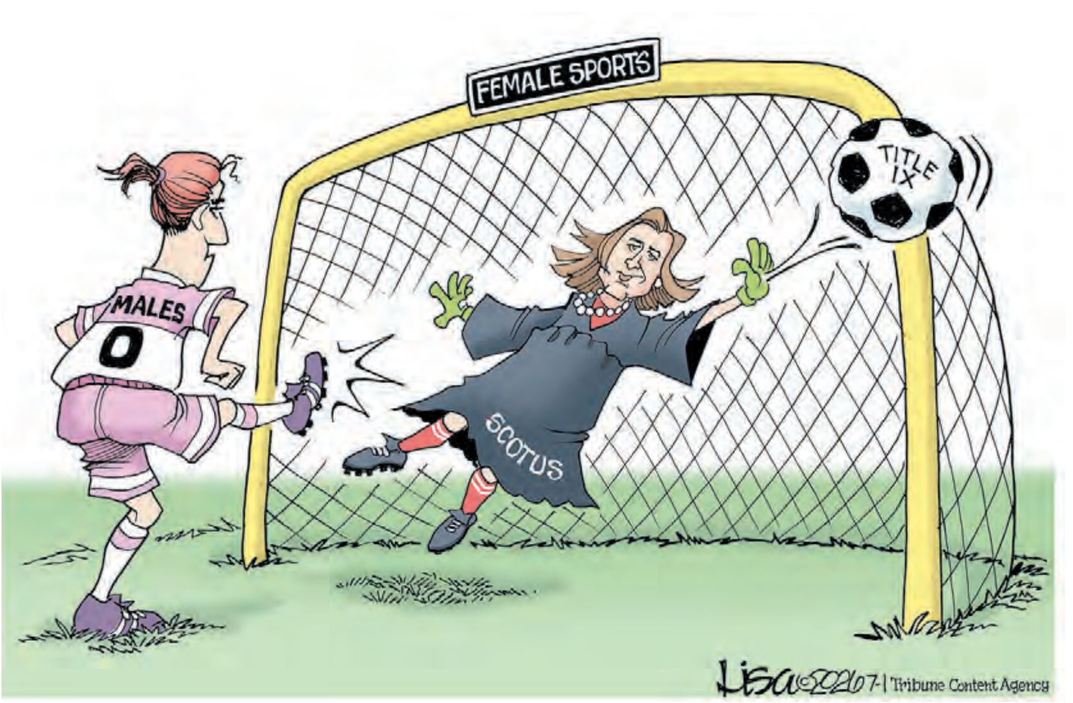
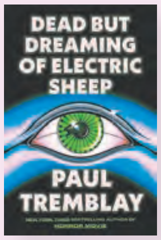


REQUIRED READING

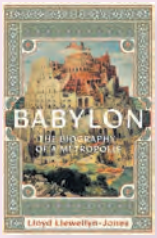
By Hailey Eber



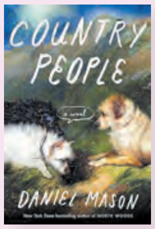
Dead but Dreaming of Electric Sheep
Paul Tremblay (William Morrow)
In this techno-horror read set in the near future, a gamer in her 20s takes on a big tech job she can't refuse: Helping a semi-conscious man with an AI implant — and no memory of who he once was — navigate across the country.

DAVE PORTNOY
CANCEL ME IF YOU CAN

Cancel Me if You Can
Dave Portnoy (Gallery Books)
The divisive Barstool Sports founder chronicles his journey from producing a free, four-page newspaper in Boston to being a digital media mogul.



Babylon: The Biography of a Metropolis
Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones (Pegasus Books)
A renowned professor of ancient history brings the Mesopotamian city to life with a lively, richly detailed portrait filled with the last scholarship.



Country People
Daniel Mason (Random House)
Quirky academics Miles and Kate relocate their family to the Vermont woods when she is offered a visiting professorship at an esteemed university. After struggling to finish his Ph.D. in Russian folktales for more than a decade, Miles hopes the move will help finally get his life together, but he becomes obsessed with a local legend that might be true. This is author Daniel Mason's first book since his acclaimed novel "North Woods," which was a Pulitzer finalist.

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
JESSICA KNOLL
AUTHOR OF BRIGHT YOUNG WOMEN
HELPLESS
A Novel

Helpless
Jessica Knoll (Scribner)
The blockbuster author of "Luckiest Girl Alive" is back. A dozen years after their intense breakup, college sweethearts Faye and Henry reunite at the funeral of a favorite professor. Both are happily married but still feel a connection. Things take a turn when Henry drugs and kidnaps Faye and takes her to a remote cabin.

THE AU PAIR
A Novel
TEDDY WAYNE

The Au Pair
Teddy Wayne (Harper)
In 2024, Wayne gave us one of the summer's sexiest thrillers with "The Winner." He's poised to do it again with this tale of a scandal between a high-achieving wife, her flailing writer husband and their Norwegian au pair.

COME HELL OR

How three friends survived a shipwreck and a shark attack in the Gulf of Mexico

Adobe Stock, Michael Tougias (2)

by TODD FARLEY

AS a maiden voyage, the first trip on Paul Le's newly purchased fishing boat didn't go much better than the Titanic's: The vessel ended up on the bottom of the ocean, with Le and his friends hanging for dear life off the sides of two floating coolers in the tumbling waves of the Gulf of Mexico.

And their chances of surviving that maritime ordeal? Not good.

"Once the boat went down, the Coast Guard estimated the chances of finding the men in the water was less than 1%," says Michael Tougias, author of "In Deep Water: A True Story of Sharks, Survival, and Courage" (St. Martin's Press, out now).

Tougias is best known as an author of stories of ocean survival and rescues at sea. An avid ocean fisherman himself, when he heard Le's tale he knew he had his next book.

"The story had all the twists and turns and drama I'd been looking for," Tougias says.

It all went down on Oct. 8, 2022. Le was a Realtor living in New Orleans, a second-generation Vietnamese-American who loved to fish. But having no boat of his own, Le only got out to deep Gulf waters to chase his favored red snappers when invited by someone else.

That changed with his purchase of a used 24-foot, center-console Pro-Line.

"Finally," Le thought, "my own boat large enough to reach the good fishing at the offshore oil platforms."

He headed out that day with life-long-time friends Sonny and Lu, but the three men had very little luck: They mostly struck out when it came to reeling in fish. Then almost anything that could go wrong on an ocean voyage went wrong.

AFTER traveling about 10 miles into the Gulf of Mexico off the Louisiana coast, for unknown reasons the boat began to take on water — worse, it was happening below decks, where it wasn't initially seen.

But after the leak was discovered Le immediately understood the danger, aiming the boat back toward the coast and speeding toward safety. Then a wave swamped the low-riding vessel and the engines died.

"We have a problem," Le knew.

The boat's bilge was broken so the water couldn't be pumped back overboard, and the radio didn't reach far enough to help: Le's "Mayday" calls went unanswered.

In the panic of abandoning the fast-sinking ship, nobody could find the flare gun.

"It's as if time has sped up with one catastrophe after another all tumbling down on the three men at once," Tougias writes.

When the boat went under the waves for good, the three floating men scrounged life preservers and tied two coolers together into a make-shift "life raft." Fortunately one cooler held 12 bottles of water, six tangerines and a small amount of sliced sandwich meat.

The strikes against the three friends were far more numerous. To begin, Le, Sonny and Lu had all lost their hats and

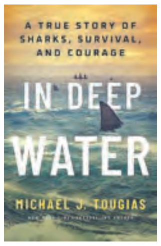
HIGH WATER

When longtime pals (from left) Lu Nguyen, Paul Le and Sonny Nguyen went fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, everything went wrong. Their boat (below) sank, leaving them adrift among tiger sharks for 28 hours.

sunglasses. On a bright day, they'd be exposed to devastating sunburns. And while the weather was forecast as mild, increasing winds led to high waves ceaselessly buffeting the helpless three.

While each held on onto his phone while going overboard, there was no reception. Le realized they were in a telephone "dead zone" but opted not to say those words aloud to his friends.

The boat sank before noon, and the men were not missed until nightfall. Plus, the high cost of diesel fuel meant the shrimp boats usually dotting those waters were few and far between.



The only thing to do was to try to swim to the nearest oil rig, about a mile away. It was exhausting work fighting the waters and winds. And while the coolers all three men were holding on to kept them afloat, they were also impeding their progress, the water current dragging their "raft" away from the oil rig they were aiming for.

After three hours of kicking the men were ultimately pulled away from the refuge of the rig. They would never get there.

THEIR next misfortune was swimming into a "smack" of jellyfish, those slimy sea creatures biting and stinging at will. Throbbing pain hit all three men, none worse than the new boat owner.

"[Le] is in agony from a sting on his genitals," Tougias writes.

As the jellyfishes' nematocysts ("tiny needle-like projections") pierced their skin, the men tried not to think of blood dripping into the water: Sharks were never far from their mind, a terror exacerbated when the remora fish who attach themselves to those man-eaters began to appear near the trio.

Even faced with a setting sun, physical exhaustion, dehydration, and increasing hypothermia (water pulls heat away from the human body 25 times faster than air), what the men didn't do was give up.

Le wanted to live for his fiancée, Sam, and their young son, Alexander. Sonny needed to get home to see his dying father and take care of his dogs. Lu dreamt of buying his first house.

By dusk, Sam knew something was wrong and alerted the Coast Guard to Le's absence. But Sam wasn't sure what marina her fiancée and friends had left from, nor exactly where they were fishing. Consequently, the Coast Guard had to search for Le, Sonny and Lu in an area of Gulf waters the size of Rhode Island.

HAD the missing boat still been afloat, the Coast Guard's technology and expertise could have found the men quickly. But with the vessel sunk, the odds of finding the tiny, bobbing men under the dark of night were astronomically low.

In the water, things were getting worse and worse. Against his friends' wishes but believing it was their only chance for survival, Le left the floating coolers to make a solo swim toward the sole shrimp boat they could see. He made it to within shouting distance before he saw a puff of black engine smoke. The shrimpers turned and motored away without ever knowing there was a man in the water.

Meanwhile, Sonny, the athlete of the group and the one who'd been doing the most work trying to kick the raft forward, had a heart attack. He never experienced any pain and didn't know about the cardiac event until doctors told him about it later.

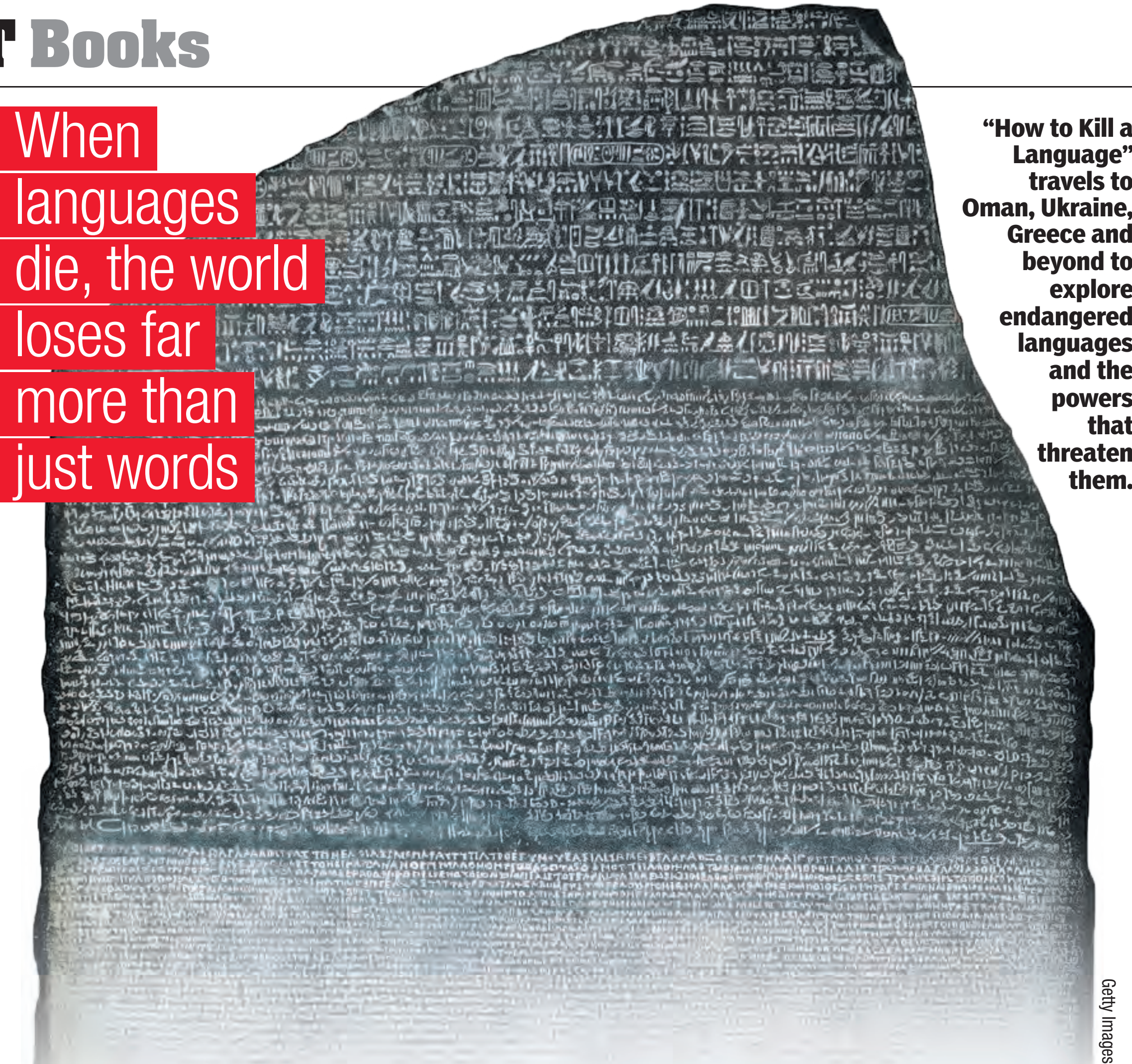
And Lu? After nearly 24 hours in the water he was ready to give up. He took a 30-second video of himself bobbing in the waves, what he thought of as a wordless message to his family that he'd never given up the fight — and then he was attacked by a raging tiger shark.

Unusually, the shark raised its body and head fully out of the water in its devastating assault. Fortunately, it clamped its terrifying teeth down only on the life-preserver covering Lu's chest.

Looking into the aquatic killer's eyes from inches away, Lu's will to live crushed his willingness to give up. He jammed a thumb into each of the sharks' two eyes, causing the monster to flee, never to return.

Almost unbelievably, all three men ultimately survived their 28 hours lost in the Gulf of Mexico.

"You're safe now," said the Coast Guard swimmer who rescued them. "We are the best at what we do."


Getty Images

SILENT KILLER

When languages die, the world loses far more than just words

by ERIC SPITZNAGEL

SOPHIA Smith Galer first understood language loss as a sound coming from upstairs.

Her 93-year-old nonna was in bed in north London, speaking al dialët, the family's regional language from northern Italy, with Galer's mother. Galer could understand much of it, but she couldn't answer in it.

"I remember going home afterwards and feeling real sorrow, almost a kind of pre-grief for what I understood I was beginning to lose," Galer told The Post. "My Nonna was a huge influence on my life, and the thought of losing her and everything associated with her became undeniable that day."

The scene begins Galer's new book, "How to Kill a Language" (Crown), which uses her family's private grief as a jumping off point for a global investigation of what happens when languages disappear, and why their disappearance takes whole worlds of memory, identity and knowledge with them.

The tome travels from Italian diaspora homes in London to camel herders in Oman; Ukrainian speakers living through war; Ladino speakers in Thessaloniki, Greece; Karuk language revival in California and other communities trying to keep their languages from disappearing.

Galer is writing about extinction, but she's wary of phrasing that makes disappearance sound inevitable. The word she keeps returning to is "linguicide," a term that treats erasure as the result of power, policy, war, shame and neglect.

"Languages don't become endangered of their own accord," she says. "Who is endangering them? What is threatening them?"

That question drives the book. Galer argues that speakers are too often blamed for letting a language fade after the institutions around them have made it harder to pass on, less useful in public life or even dangerous to claim as their own.

One of the book's most striking encounters takes place in the mountains of southern Oman's Dhofar region, where Galer meets Arif, a camel herder who speaks Shehret, also known as Jibbali.

The language and Arabic are both Semitic, but Galer writes that they're not mutually intelligible. Arif reassures her that the language is safe because "everyone speaks Jibbali here." In the isolation of his community, it still sounds secure.

But Arabic is the country's official language and the language of school, government, public life and many jobs, pulling younger speakers toward the language with power.

"The more remote someone lives, the more likely it is that their local language may be incubated, isolated within a self-sustaining community, and protected from competing linguistic hierarchies," she says. "Towards the end of my research, I realized that I often found myself either in a really remote, rural location or deep in an archive. They're the two last spaces that a language may be heard, or seen, before it disappears from contemporary life."

In Ukraine, language becomes political with terrible speed. Galer writes about Oryna, a woman from Dnipro whose Ukrainian passport listed both versions of her name. In Ukrainian, she was Oryna. In Russian, she was Arina, the name she'd used most of her life in a Russian-speaking home. After Russia's full-scale invasion, she stopped speaking Russian and became Oryna.

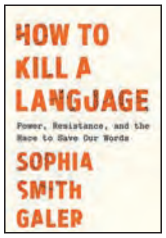
"How to Kill a Language" travels to Oman, Ukraine, Greece and beyond to explore endangered languages and the powers that threaten them.

"I think for most people, certainly for me, the idea of changing your name is incomprehensible," Galer said. "It's such an intimate part of ourselves . . . Oryna's choice reflects on how visceral feelings are for many Ukrainians about their relationship to the Russian language and what it stands for."

In the Kurdish chapter, Galer writes about Kurds who've been forced to register non-Kurdish names officially because Kurdish names weren't allowed in countries like Turkey.

"One of the many cruelties of linguicide is how it forces these kinds of choices on people," she said.

The book's hope arrives most clearly through Maymi, a Karuk mother in Northern California.



Karuk is an Indigenous language isolate, meaning no related language has been found on any linguistic family tree. While pregnant, Maymi, who had not grown up fluent in Karuk, dreamed the word "xurish." She learned it meant "acorn meat," gave the name to her son and began studying Karuk. Maymi is now conversationally fluent in the language and makes a point of speaking it with her young family.

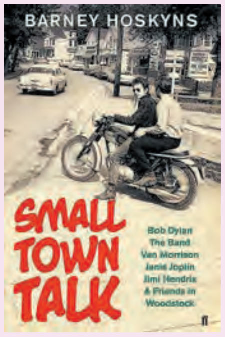
"Raw, grassroots willpower is what protects languages alongside institutional infrastructure," Galer said. "The latter can be built up with constitutional recognition and funding; the former is organic, community-driven and is done by people, through people . . . That's why I always say it's ultimately down to speakers and the community themselves."

In the book's final pages, Galer comes to terms with what her grandmother's passing meant for her and her unique dialect.

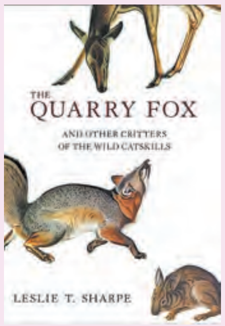
"A language is the way your parents spoke to you; it is every memory of your childhood," she writes. It holds names, songs, family stories and the small intimacies that make people legible to one another. "We lose far more than a bunch of grammar rules and words when we lose a language."

BUZZ: Book Marks

The Post regularly asks local libraries and bookstores about their top titles. This week, James Conrad and Jacqueline Kellahan, co-owners of The Golden Notebook in Woodstock, share some of their most popular books.



Small Town Talk: Bob Dylan, The Band, Van Morrison, Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and Friends in the Wild Years of Woodstock
Barney Hoskyns (Da Capo)
"This is the real history behind the infamous 1969 music festival," Conrad and Kellahan told The Post. "So many of the legends recorded and lived in the town of Woodstock, and Hoskyns thoroughly recounts their complicated friendships, love affairs and musical achievements."



The Quarry Fox: and Other Critters of the Wild Catskills
Leslie T. Sharpe (Golden Notebook Press)
"This is a terrific book to introduce you to the many unique creatures that call these mountains home," Conrad and Kellahan said. "Sharpe is a renowned naturalist, and local artist Will Lytle contributes illustrations to complement her wise words."

Even The Good Girls Will Cry: A '90s Rock Memoir
Melissa Auf der Maur (Da Capo)
"It's a fearless, deeply personal memoir from the musician, artist, and former Hole and Smashing Pumpkins bassist," the bookstore owners said. "Blending music, motherhood, feminism, and creative reinvention, it's an intimate portrait of an artist forging her own path."

Celebrity Pics of the Week / TV / Horoscope / Puzzles

PLAY MORE GAMES!
NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Sunday Break

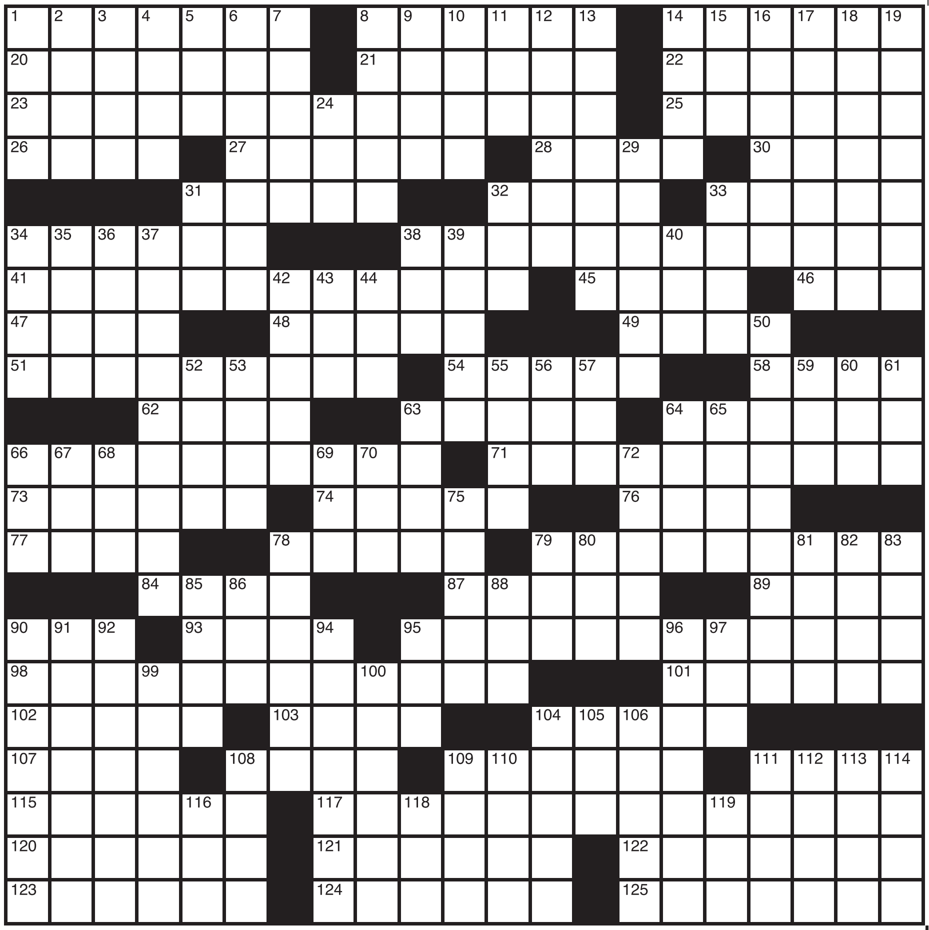
"EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITIES" By Sheldon Polonsky

Across

1 Does some chiropractic work
8 Story links
14 Southeast Africa's "Sunshine City"
20 ___ suit
21 Move quietly
22 Takes a hand in Vegas, perhaps
23 Most popular member of a 1960s television family?
25 Keep time with rhythmically
26 Actor Guinness
27 Shields on some helmets
28 Clock sound
30 Pinch
31 "I won't ___ words ... "
32 Reading with medium comprehension?
33 Pore strip brand
34 National park in Maine
38 "People walk all over me," "No one appreciates my rugged good looks," etc.?
41 Just a hint of flavor in some ice cream?
45 Read quickly
46 Antidiscrimination in the workplace inits.
47 Hold firmly
48 Party planners
49 Den fixture
51 Display an unfair lack of confidence in
54 Great pain
58 Cornstarch brand
62 Acceptable
63 Nebraska city
64 Less substantial
66 With 71-Across, terse rejection note?
71 See 66-Across
73 Expressway entrance
74 Smock stain
76 Grilled fruta on some tacos
77 "Get outta here!"
78 Panna ___: Italian dessert
79 High-fiber cereal ingredient
84 Heath bar alternative
87 Cut
89 Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"
90 BOLO kin
93 ___ Games: Fortnite company
95 Part-time gig at a summer camp?
98 Perfect nursery gift for a future astronomer?
101 Brick-and-mortar workers
102 Apply (for)
103 Digital read
104 Bypasses
107 Pt. of YMCA
108 Spellbound
109 Naval fleet
111 Sticky stuff
115 Cesar who played the Joker
117 Sign of overwork for a bird of prey?
120 Summer months in Argentina
121 Ankle-related
122 Taken for granted
123 Focus group?
124 Register
125 Catch of the day choice

Down

1 Italian auto, familiarly
2 "Agreed!"
3 "___ Talkin'": 1975 Bee Gees hit
4 Games org. that added a "P" to its initials in 2019
5 California's Big ___
6 Not even a little important
7 Took hold
8 Missouri city nickname
9 Subscription level
10 Bldg. units
11 Part of FWIW
12 Unearth
13 Spanish gentlemen
14 "Darn it all to ___!"
15 Everyone
16 Band aide
17 Rubber-stamp
18 Pensioner
19 Anka song with a Spanish title
24 Key near F1
29 Like a good advertising jingle
31 Thou squared
32 Amount to
33 Inclination
34 Many sports nos.
35 Give a darn
36 Source of indigo
37 Tact-ical experts?
38 Purr former
39 Breakfast tea variety
40 Cushion
42 Nautical greetings
43 The Raptors, on schedules
44 Inexact fig.
50 Unknown qualities
52 ___ milk
53 Locking device
55 Trot or canter
56 Omega, in physics
57 Snooze
59 Barbecue bone
60 Take shape
61 Mine deposit
63 "Got this, boss"
64 Java's home
65 Ain't right?
66 Brillo rival
67 Mom's bro
68 Bali garment
69 Big day for a co.
70 Protein bar grain
72 News stands?
75 Sounding congested
78 Black Sea peninsula
79 "Wonder Woman" backdrop, briefly
80 Lady bird
81 Spanish red



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82 Soon, quaintly
83 Pen tips
85 Eager
86 Take one's pick
88 1860s prez
90 Outfits
91 Guest's guest
92 Some cricket players
94 Try for the title
95 Smoke, briefly
96 Deadlock
97 Some govt. lawyers
99 SF NFL team
100 Luzon peninsula on Manila Bay
104 Olfaction
105 "Funny Face" actress Thompson who wrote the "Eloise" books
106 Think tank output
108 Dress for Less discount store
109 To boot
110 "It's been ___!"
111 Vittles
112 Tibetan monk
113 Informal reversals
114 Winds down
116 Fish-to-be
118 "So frustrating!"
119 PreCheck org.

Post SU DOKU

You must put a number, from 1 to 9, in each empty box. Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids.

Super Su Doku, inside, multiplies the challenge — and your enjoyment. For that one, put a number from 1 to 12 in each empty box, making sure each number appears once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-4 grids. Tips and in-depth strategies at www.SudokuWiki.org. For more Su Doku puzzles, see tomorrow's New York Post.

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Very Easy #7,330

2								7
9						3	8	
	5	1		7			4	
	3		8		7		6	1
		2	9		5	4		
6	4		3		1		7	
	8			1		7	9	
	9	7						6
1								3

Difficult #7,120

	2	1						
3				8		9		
	4	5			7			
4	9							1
			3		6			
5							3	7
			6			5		
		8		1				9
	5					3	8	

Challenging #562

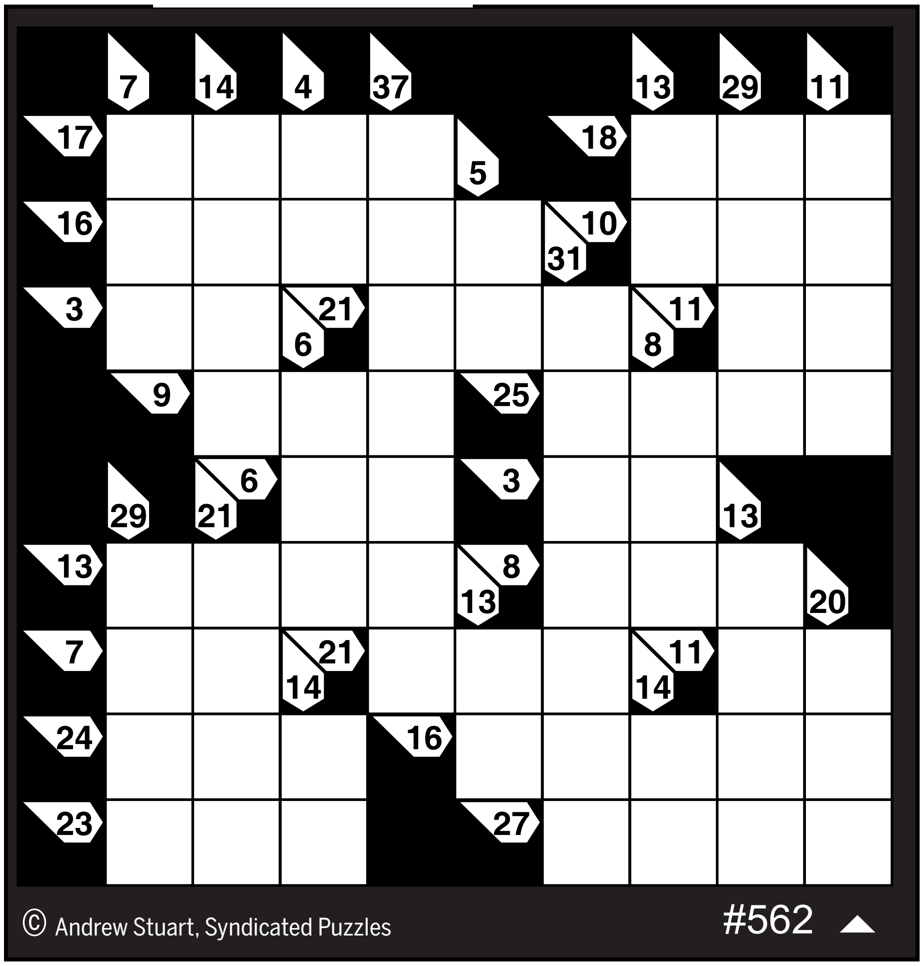
				3			9	
			8		4			
8				1		2	5	
1	7	4				3		
		5				8		
		3					7	2
		6		8				5
			6		9			
	3			2				

All Sunday puzzle answers on Page 54

All Sunday puzzle answers
are on Page 54

Kakuro

Place 1 to 9 in each white cell. To choose the right number, you need to work from the clues in around the edge. The numbers below the diagonal lines are the sums of the solutions in the white cells immediately beneath. The numbers above the divide are the sums of the solutions immediately to the right. Rows and columns do NOT have to be unique.



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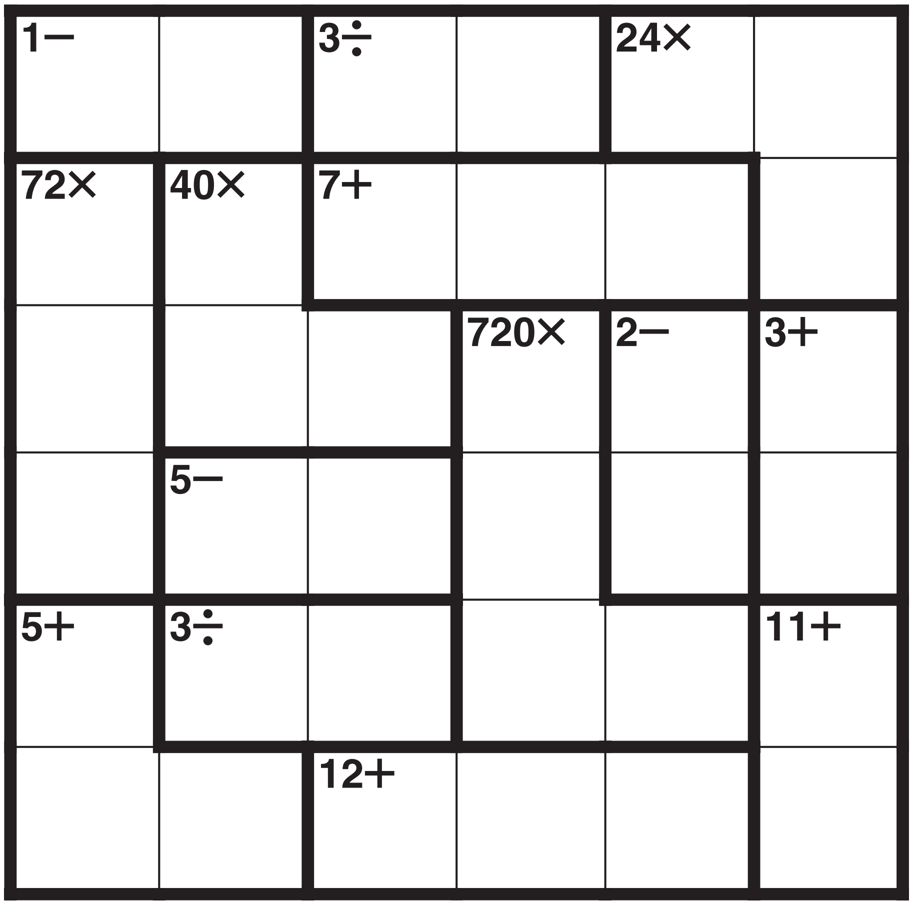
KENKEN

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.



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Chess

Checked out

By Andy Soltis

You can't be brilliant unless your opponent allows you.

That's the lesson of Black's undeserved loss in this week's game.

He defended a double-edged position skillfully with 17...Nxe4!.

But his downfall came when he failed to stop a later g5-g6.

Black might have been winning after 21...Rxd4!. For instance, 22 Qxd4 Bb5 followed by ...Bxf1 or ...Bc5.

But after White got to play 22 g6! the game might have ended with 22...hxg6? 23 Rxg6! Rxd4 24 Rxg7+! and a quick mate.

Instead, it happened after he got in the brilliant 25 Rxg7!!.

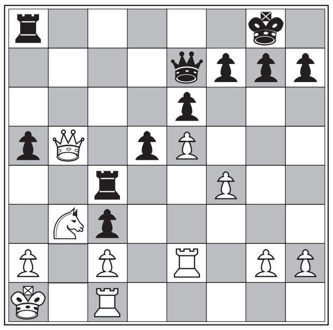
Black gave up in view of mate after 26...Kh8 27 Rg8+.

No better was 26...Kf6 27 Qf2 mate or 26...Kh6 27 Qe3+ Kh5 28 Qh3+.

SICILIAN DEFENSE
St. Louis 2026

Evan Park **Bharathakoti Harsha**

1 e4 .... c5
2 Nf3 .... d6
3 d4 .... cxd4
4 Nxd4 .... Nf6
5 Nc3 .... a6
6 Bg5 .... Nbd7
7 Bc4 .... Qb6
8 Bb3 .... e6
9 Qd2 .... Be7
10 O-O-O Nc5
11 f3 .... Qc7
12 g4 .... b5
13 Be3 .... O-O
14 Rhg1? .... b4!
15 Na4 .... Bd7
16 Nxc5 .... dxc5
17 g5 .... Nxe4!
18 fxe4 .... cxd4
19 Bxd4 .... Bc6
20 Qe3 .... Rad8
21 Rdf1 .... Bb5?
22 g6! Rxd4
23 gxf7+ Kh8
24 Qxd4 .... e5
25 Rxg7!! Kxg7
26 Rg1+ .... Resigns



Black to play and win.

I.Musial - S.Gumularz

Katowice 2026

Last week: 1...Bxc5+! 2 Nxc5 Rh1+! 3 Kxh1 Qh7+ and ...Qh2 mate.

Sunday Word Force

BUREAUCRAT

From the word or phrase above, form at least 25 five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank, not both.

Bridge

A friend of mine was a dairy farmer for 40 years. He told me once that if you want milk, you don't go sit in the middle of the pasture with a bucket and wait for the cows to come to you. To be successful, you must grasp your opportunities.

In today's deal, South opened 1NT, and North must have liked the way South handled the dummy: After North found a spade fit with Stayman, he invited game despite a hand with only eight high-card points and four ragged spades. South went on to four spades with his maximum, and West led the nine of hearts.

East dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ 7 6 4 3
♡ J 10 4
◇ 9 8 7 2
♣ A K

WEST
♠ 9 5
♡ 9 8 7 3
◇ A 5 4
♣ 10 8 6 3

EAST
♠ K 10 8
♡ A K 5
◇ J 10 3
♣ 9 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 2
♡ Q 6 2
◇ K Q 6
♣ Q J 4

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠
Pass	4 ♠	All Pass	

Opening lead – ♡ 9

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East took the K-A (South dropped the queen) and shifted to the three of diamonds, and declarer's king lost to the ace. West returned a diamond: seven, ten, queen. South then led a club to dummy and returned a trump to his queen, winning the finesse. He got back to dummy with a club, led a second trump to his jack and cashed the ace, but he couldn't avoid losing a second diamond. Down one.

What do you think of declarer's play?

I think it was an udder failure. East failed to open the bidding, and South has seen him play the K-A of hearts and must assume that East has the king of trumps. So South can't play East for the ace of diamonds. South's only real chance is to hope East's diamonds are headed by the J-10.

The cream will come to the top if at Trick Three, South gives himself a chance for the contract by playing his six of diamonds. This is an example of a "second-degree assumption." You make a necessary assumption about the location of one card and see where it leads you.

All Sunday puzzle answers are on Page 54

Boggle® BrainBusters!

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

H	K	A	N	E
A	W	I	R	C
V	F	O	L	H
E	O	N	K	A
Y	D	U	C	R

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the puzzle grid. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST EIGHT ONE-SYLLABLE BIRDS in the grid of letters.

____________ ____________

____________ ____________

____________ ____________

____________ ____________

7-5-26

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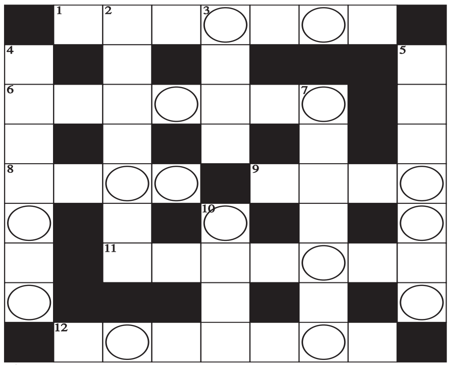
JUMBLE® CROSSWORDS™

by David L. Hoyt

Sunday Puzzle



7-5-26

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. ____ court	RTOABPE
6. Firefighter's water source	DNTYAHR
8. House top	ROFO
9. ____ strategy	ETIX
11. Preset choice	DFLUAET
12. Type of enclosure	NEPLPYA

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
2. ____ tree	DOREWDO
3. ____ Bridges	UEBA
4. Parched	HYITSTR
5. Mimic	MTIAIET
7. Fabric quality	UXTRETE
10. Uncertain	FIYF

How to play
Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

BONUS

CLUE: It was officially declared a U.S. National Monument in 1924 by President Calvin Coolidge.

○○○○○○ ○○ ○○○○○○○

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SCRABBLE® GRAMS

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A_1 E_1 E_1 L_1 M_3 R_1 D_2 — RACK 1

A_1 U_1 K_5 S_1 T_1 B_3 S_1 — Double Word Score — RACK 2

E_1 I_1 O_1 H_4 R_1 B_3 C_3 — RACK 3

A_1 O_1 O_1 T_1 F_4 N_1 M_3 — RACK 4

A_1 I_1 O_1 T_1 R_1 C_3 P_3 — 2nd Letter Triple — RACK 5

PAR SCORE 265-275
BEST SCORE 329

FIVE RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

Super Su Doku

		3							11		8
1					7	8					6
	2	6			4	9	10		3		1
										9	
12			4	8	9	1	5	10			7
	8		10	7			6	2		3	4
9	7		1	10			12	5		2	
			2	1	5	3	7	6			11
	4										
7		10		9	1	6			4	8	
8					11	7					10
2		1							7		

Wonderword

First read the list of words, then look at the puzzle. The words are in all directions - vertically, horizontally, diagonally, backward. Circle each letter of a word found and strike it off the list. The letters are often used more than once, so do not cross them out. It's best to find the big words first. When you find all the words listed in the clues, you'll have a number of letters left over that spell out the Wonderword.

America, Anthem, Apple Pie, Bands, Barbecue, Baseball, Beach, Bingo, Blue, Boat, Bonfire, Britain, Camping, Carnival, Cheer, Commemorate, Competition, Congress, Cookout, Corn on the Cob, Country, Cupcake, Drums, England, Entertainment, Equality, Federal, Fireworks, Float, Glory, Grill, Hike, Independence, King, Mall, Museum, Nation, Noisemakers, Outdoor, Picnic, Potato Salad, Pride, Relay Race, Reunion, Revolution, Ribbon, Ribs, Rides, Rights, Roller Coaster, Salute, Sing, Song, Sparklers, Speech, Stripes, Swim, Thirteen, Travel, Treats, Vacation, Watermelon, Waving, Weekend

THE USA CELEBRATES 250 YEARS! **SOLUTION: 12 LETTERS**

W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R
A	E	U	C	E	B	R	A	B	A	S	E	B	A	L	L	A	Q	E	O
V	N	E	C	N	E	D	N	E	P	E	D	N	I	A	C	U	L	G	L
I	T	N	K	R	I	D	E	S	T	H	G	I	R	A	A	A	N	N	L
N	E	G	A	E	R	I	F	N	O	B	N	E	T	L	Y	I	O	I	E
G	R	L	R	T	N	B	L	U	E	C	D	I	I	R	B	P	I	P	R
N	T	A	L	I	I	D	U	T	O	E	O	T	A	S	O	N	N	M	C
I	A	N	O	A	L	O	U	U	F	N	Y	C	G	T	B	I	U	A	O
K	I	D	U	T	M	L	N	H	I	K	E	N	A	L	I	I	E	C	A
N	N	L	T	E	A	T	S	C	S	E	I	T	H	T	O	R	R	O	S
O	M	E	D	S	R	T	A	K	T	S	O	D	U	C	D	R	B	N	T
I	E	V	O	Y	A	R	R	A	R	S	O	O	C	R	E	E	Y	G	E
T	N	A	O	E	N	O	R	E	A	P	K	N	U	U	S	E	T	R	R
I	T	R	R	I	W	O	L	L	N	O	R	M	G	M	P	H	P	E	A
T	A	T	V	E	M	K	A	A	O	T	S	I	I	M	U	C	E	S	C
E	O	A	R	E	R	D	S	C	B	O	A	T	D	W	E	S	A	S	I
P	L	I	M	A	H	C	A	E	B	A	N	D	S	E	S	H	E	K	R
M	F	M	P	I	C	N	I	C	I	N	E	E	T	R	I	H	T	U	E
O	O	S	T	R	I	P	E	S	R	E	K	A	M	E	S	I	O	N	M
C	O	R	N	O	N	T	H	E	C	O	B	E	I	P	E	L	P	P	A

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Snaps

By NY Post staff

FRIENDS GALORE

“Real Housewives” **Teresa Giudice** (from left), **Vicki Gunvalson** and **Kyle Richards** go out for dinner in West Hollywood.

The Hollywood Curtain / BACKGRID

CHOC-FUL OF FUN

“Riverdale” star **Camila Mendes** has a sweet start to her 32nd birthday with a cupcake and a truffle.

camimendes/Instagram

ABSOLUTE GEMS

A breakfast of champions! New York Knick **Josh Hart** (center in white) and wife **Shannon** (in orange) meet with London Jewelers’ **Mark** (in light blue) and **Candy Udell** (second from left) and their family in Capri, Italy.

NY Post

TIRESOME WORK

Stephen Amell hits the road while on the set of the “Baywatch” reboot in Venice Beach, Calif.

Tim Regas / SplashNews.com

DANDY AND SANDY

"Baywatch" icon **Pamela Anderson** watches over the swimmers in St-Tropez.

Best Image / BACKGRID

RANCH 'RAP

Houston-raised rapper **Megan Thee Stallion** shows off her cowgirl skills in Fiji.

theestallion/Instagram

FLEX ON 'EM

Zoey Deutch goes bananas over "Minions" at the after-party following the premiere of their newest movie in LA.

Getty Images for Illumination And Universal Pictures

SQUEEZE PLAY

Kate Bosworth shares a cute moment celebrating husband **Justin Long's** birthday with lemon smiles.

justinlong/Instagram

Snaps

amelia gray/Instagram

SHE GOT SCOOPED!

Model Amelia Gray Hamlin chills out with a sweet treat on vacation in St-Tropez.

Ouzounova / SplashNews.com

LOLLI-GAGGING

Julia Fox provides the eye candy at the Marc Jacobs ready-to-wear spring collection at the New York Public Library.

Christopher Peterson / SplashNews.com

TULIP SERVICE

"The Rookie" star Jenna Dewan takes the flora at ABC Studios in Hudson Square.

ellfefanning/Instagram

COOLING FAN'

"Predator: Badlands" star Elle Fanning dives into summer vacation with a quiet getaway.

SNEAK A PINK

What, like it's *heart*? Lexi Minetree, playing Elle Woods in the "Legally Blonde" prequel on Prime, attends the London photo call.

Getty Images for Prime Video

'MAN & MOUSE

Natalie Portman has a magical time at Disneyland Paris with her new BFF, Minnie Mouse.

natalieportman/Instagram

BRONZE WINNER

Rita Ora absorbs all the sun in her metallic bikini while in Mykonos, Greece.

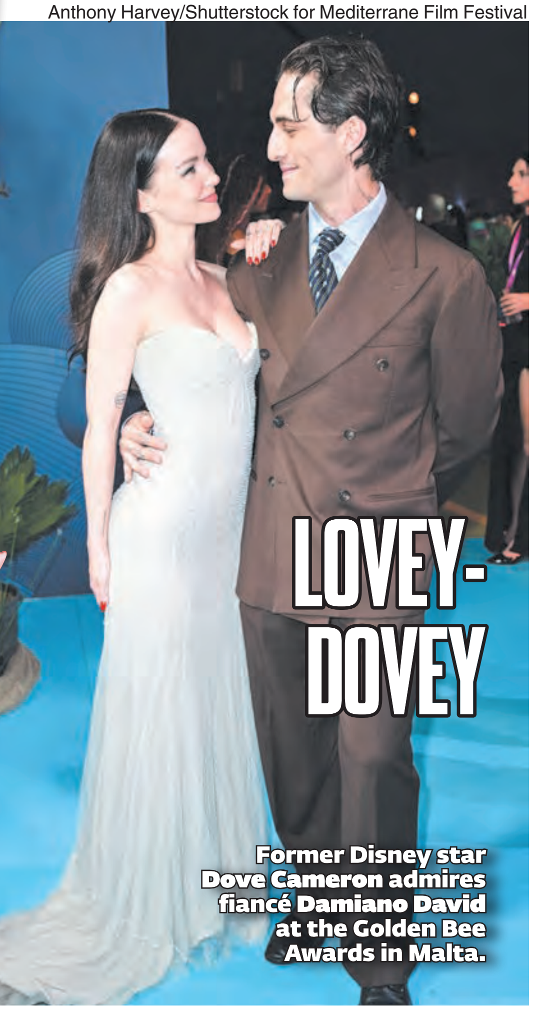
Click News and Media / BACKGRID

FEELING CHILL & SHAKE-Y

A milkshake hits the spot for Chrissy Teigen, who brought her kids to an event at an LA frozen yogurt shop.

GuessWhoISaw / BACKGRID

LOVEY-DOVEY



Former Disney star Dove Cameron admires fiancé Damiano David at the Golden Bee Awards in Malta.

Anthony Harvey/Shutterstock for Mediterrane Film Festival

LOOK WHO'S TALKING

THIS WEEK'S GUESTS

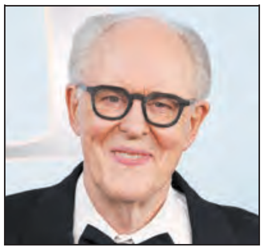
LIVE WITH KELLY AND MARK

9 a.m., ABC

Monday: Malachi Barton, Catherine Laga'aia

Tuesday: Jerry O'Connell (above), Bernadette Peters

Wednesday: Kylie Cantrall, Robert Irwin



TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JIMMY FALLON

11:35 p.m., NBC

Monday: Tracee Ellis Ross, Ryan Hamilton

Tuesday: John Cena, Olivia Cooke

Wednesday: John Lithgow (above), Regina Hall

THE VIEW

11 a.m., ABC

Monday: Michelle Buteau (above)

Tuesday: Marjorie Taylor Greene

Wednesday: Day of Hot Topics (No Guests)

Sunday July 5, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	News 6:30pm	60 Minutes		Marshals: Lost Girls (R)		Tracker: Struck (R)		Marshals: Out of the Shadows (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Crossroads of
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	MLB Baseball: San Diego Padres at Los Angeles Dodgers from Dodger Stadium. Live.						Password: The Miz & Jimmy Fallon (R)		News 4 New York at 11	News
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	FIFA World Cup Live.	(7:45) 2026 FIFA World Cup: Round of 16: Mexico at England from Mexico City Stadium. Live.					FIFA World Cup Live.	The 10 O'Clock News	Sports Extra	In Depth
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	America's Funniest Home Videos: Siblings, Karma		America's Funniest Home Videos: Summer Snafus		(9:03) The Sandlot (1993, Family) Art LaFleur, Tom Guiry. PG ★★★				Eyewitness News at 11	
9 WWOR	9	9	9	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Chicago P.D.: A Night Owl		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Suits: Not Just a Pretty Face		Suits: Denial	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	Paid Program	Superman (1978, Action): Superhero battles injustice on Earth while posing as a mild-mannered reporter. Christopher Reeve. PG ★★★						PIX11 News at Ten with Kaity Tong		New York Nightcap	Yankees Nation
13 WNET	13	13	13	Treasures of New York	Elisabeth Von Trapp's Journey - Echoes of Sound		Patience: The Timetable		Grantchester		Downton Abbey: Part Four		Murder in the Mountains: Old Wounds (R)	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	Best Pop	America - Made in Virginia: 250 Years Together				Capitol Fourth: 250th			Magic Moments: The Best of 50s Pop		
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Aktina TV	Buzz (2009)	Profiles	On Story	Day's Work	Her B Idea	Neighbor	Nightmare Theatre			
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Semper Fortis		NCIS: Grounded		NCIS: House Rules		NCIS: Check		NCIS: The Enemy Within	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisio	La rosa de Guadalupe		Garra vs Veneno: Guerreros Mundiales				Complices		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Mundial	Mundial	Copa Mundial de FIFA 2026: Mexico vs England. Directo.					Todo el Mundial Directo.		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	(6:00) ET	Inside	The Point	CBS News Sunday Morning (R)			Paid	Judge Judy	Paid	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE: Great	WWE LFG: Boys of LFG		WWE: Great	WWE: Great
AMC	54	43	231	(6:00) Jaws (1975, Thriller) Roy Scheider, Robert Shaw. PG ★★★½					The Vampire Lestat		(10:15) The Vampire Lestat: New York			Fugitive
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:00) Rambo: First Blood Part II (1985)			Rambo III (1988, Action) Sylvester Stallone. R ★★					First Blood (1982) Sylvester Stallone. R		
BET	37	54	270	Boomerang	Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud		Family Feud: Jackass		(11:20) Family Feud	
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives (R)	
CNBC	15	24	102	Shark Tank	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank (R)		Shark Tank (R)	
CNN	78	25	100	Newsroom	CNN Newsroom		American on Purpose		American on Purpose		American on Purpose		American on Purpose	
COMEDY	45	50	190	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
DISC	66	27	120	Naked & Afraid: Global: Lock In or Out			Naked and Afraid: Global Showdown: Broken Spirits				(10:01) Eye of Storm		(11:02) Eye of Storm (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	Chibiverse	Finding Nemo (2003) Albert Brooks. G			Phineas	(9:15) Big City Greens		DuckTales	The Ghost	Miraculous	Miraculous
E!	24	51	196	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)	Mother (R)
ESPN	28	36	70	Countdown	WNBA Basketball: Indiana Fever at Las Vegas Aces.				ESPN Films				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Women's Lacross Live.		Competitive Eating		ESPN Films	Women's Sports Now		ESPN FC		30 for 30	
FBN	43	106	117	K. Grammer	Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)		Kelsey Grammer (R)	
FNC	44	26	118	(5:00) The Big Weekend Show			Life, Liberty & Levin		Sunday Night		One Nation		Life, Liberty & Levin (R)	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	100 Cooks: 32 Cooks		100 Cooks: 18 Cooks		Chopped Castaways: Escape			Beat Bobby
FREE	38	49	199	Zootopia	(7:15) Ratatouille (2007, Comedy) Patton Oswalt, Ian Holm. G ★★★½					(9:50) The Garfield Movie (2024, Comedy) Chris Pratt. PG ★★½				
FS1	400	99	83	The 500: I	INDYCAR	ALL IN: INDYCAR		Indycar INXT Racing		Indycar NICS: The Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio				World Cup
FX	10	40	53	(5:00) Kingdom Crystal Skull (2008) ★★½			Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny (2023, Adventure) Harrison Ford. PG-13 ★★★							Skull (2008)
HALL		191	240	Christmas Under Construction (2026) G			The More the Merrier (2025) Rachel Boston.				Coyote Creek Christmas (2021) Janel Parrish. NR			
HGTV	64	98	165	Renovation	Renovation Aloha		Renovation Island		Love It or List It		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Hazardous	Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History (R)		Hazardous History		Food Built: Spilling the T.		(11:05) Food Built (R)	
ID	23	171	123	Monster	American Monster		Bodies in the Water		Surviving a Serial Killer		Case Paula Zahn		Case Paula Zahn	
LIFE	62	45	140	Kidnapped in a Small Town (2025) NR			Buried in Barstow (2022) NR				(10:03) Secrets in the Desert (2023, Thriller) NR			
MeTV	33	33	3	Collectors	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Family	Family
MSG	27	87	78	Coaches	USL Soccer: Boise AC at Westchester SC. Live.				3ICE 3-on-3 Hockey: 3ICE World Cup Replay.					
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(6:00) NHL Hockey Replay.			PokerGO Cup		PokerGO Cup		PokerGO Cup		PokerGO Cup	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Weekend	The Weekend		The Weekend		The Briefing with Jen		Crooked on MS NOW		The Weekend	
MTV	20	53	210	(4:30) Harry Potter & Hallows 1 (2010)			Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 (2011, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe.						Ridiculous	Ridiculous
NATGEO	65	162	121	Beach (R)	Chris Hemsworth (R)		Sharks Up Close (R)		Hammerhead Up		World's Biggest Sharks		Hammerhead Up (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	SpongeBob	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	48 Hours:	48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence		48 Hours: Hard Evidence	
PARMT	36	56	54	Yellowsto.	(7:08) Yellowstone (R)		(8:15) Yellowstone: Desire Is All (R)			Yellowstone: Apocalypse		Yellowstone: Three Fifty		Yellowsto.
SNY	26	60	77	(6:00) USL League One Soccer Replay.			Cape Cod Baseball League: Falmouth Commodores at Cotuit Kettleers. Taped.						Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	(6:00) Cast Away (2000, Drama) Tom Hanks, Helen Hunt. PG-13 ★★★½						Twister (1996, Drama) Helen Hunt. PG-13 ★★½				
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	The Office
TCM	82	41	230	(5:30) Oklahoma! (1955, Musical) G ★★★½			Soylent Green (1973) Charlton Heston. PG ★★½				Escape from New York (1981, Action) Kurt Russell. R			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day	90 Day Fiancé		90 Day Fiancé: Actions Speak Louder Than Words				(10:01) 90 Day Diaries		(11:01) Jay & Pamela (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(6:00) NASCAR Cup Series: eero 400 Live.					NASCAR Na.	Road House (2024, Action) Jake Gyllenhaal. R				
TVLAND	85	34	241	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Everything	Everything
VH1	19	52	217	(5:30) Maid in Manhattan (2002) ★★			Nobody's Fool (2018, Comedy) Tika Sumpter. R ★★					Daddy Day Camp (2007) PG ★		
WE	59	42	149	Minds	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds: Hit		Criminal Minds: Run		Criminal Minds	
YES	53	89	76	(6:00) Yankees Classics: Celebrating John Sterling						Major League Cricket: San Francisco Unicorns at MI New York.				
HBO	511	301	400	(6:43) Of the Dragon (R)		House of the Dragon: Queen's Landing			House of the Dragon		House of the Dragon (R)		House of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	Beetlejuice Beetlejuice		(7:50) Aniara (2019, Drama) Emelie Jonsson. R ★★★				The Usual Suspects (1995, Crime) Stephen Baldwin.				My Soul ★★
MGM Plus	595		395	(6:10) From	From: Best Laid Plans		From: Heavy Is The Head		From: The Calm Before		(9:55) From	Rings (2017, Horror) Matilda Lutz. ★½		
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:35) Hacksaw Ridge (2016, Drama) R			The Chi: Truth Thaws		The Chi: Ice Box		Deepwater Horizon (2016, Thriller) Dylan O'Brien. ★★★			

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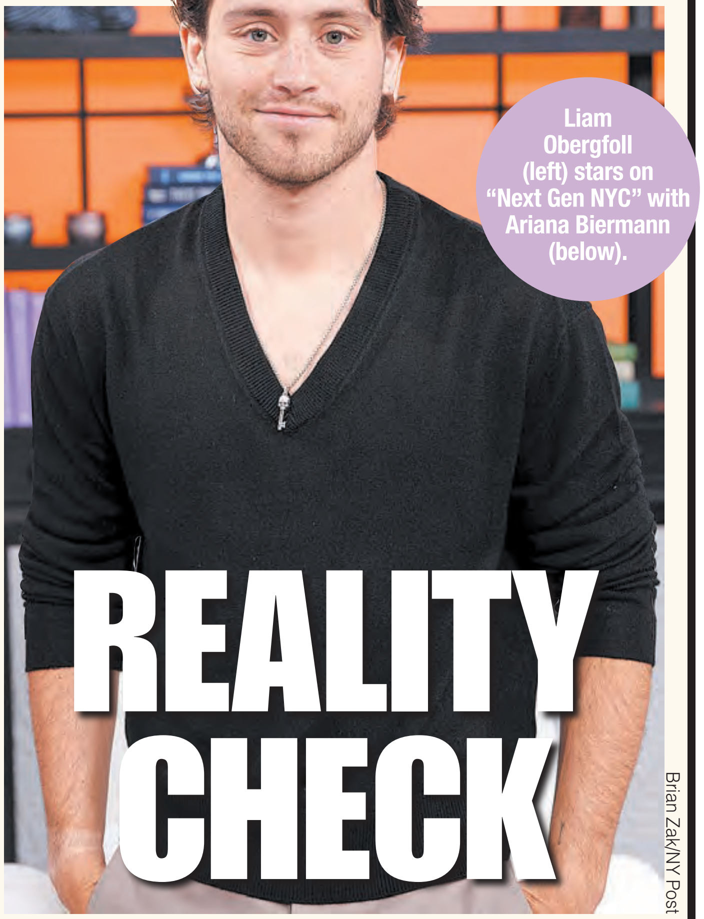
REALITY CHECK



Liam Obergfoll (left) stars on "Next Gen NYC" with Ariana Biermann (below).

Brian Zak/NY Post

Liam Obergfoll talks 'Next Gen NYC' Season 2

1 NEXT GEN NYC

New episodes air Wednesdays at 9 p.m. on Bravo, stream next day on Peacock

By SAMANTHA NUNGESSER

LIAM Obergfoll might be joining **"Next Gen NYC"** in its sophomore season, but he's hardly tardy for the party.

The actor, who made his name on the Nickelodeon sitcom **"Every Witch Way,"** was introduced in the Season 2 premiere as a friend of Brooks Marks, and it wasn't long before he set his sights on another Bravo nepo baby. Fresh out of her years-long relationship with Hudson McLeroy, Ariana Biermann quickly caught Obergfoll's attention.

"She's just super chill, down to earth, and she's got a great smile. We had a good connection right off the bat," Obergfoll told DECIDER, refusing to spill any further details about how far they took their relationship. He did, however, share that he met Biermann's mom, **"Real Housewives of Atlanta"** icon Kim Zolciak, over FaceTime. "Me and Kim have some inside jokes," he cheekily added.

As we know, whatever happened (or didn't happen) between Obergfoll and Biermann was short-lived, as the latter rekindled her romance with McLeroy this last spring.

"I wish them the best," Obergfoll said, sharing his desire to date outside of the "Next Gen NYC" friend group for a while. "I hope they're both happy and doing their thing. Hudson is a good kid, and I think with time, a friendship could grow. But yeah, he's a good kid and I hope he's on a good path."

DECIDER: Liam, I'm so excited to have you here to talk all about "Next Gen NYC." What made you want to, after so many years of acting, get into reality TV?

LIAM OBERGFOLL: It's something new. I have watched a little bit of it, had an idea of the world, opportunity presented itself, and here we are. It was a great time.

You came into the show through Brooks Marks. How did you meet Brooks? Were you familiar with his mom, Meredith Marks, at all before joining the show?

I was familiar with Meredith. I had a little stint of watching Season [1], so that was a fantastic time. I just knew Brooks through the city. Our friendship kind of built as we kind of got to know each other through parties and dinners and whatnot.

You said you auditioned for "Heated Rivalry," but you did not get the part. When you were auditioning, did you think that the show would become as big as it did, and do you know why they didn't pick you?

No, I don't know why they didn't pick me. [I'm] a little bummed. But, you know, "Next Gen." What's interesting is the audition didn't say "Heated Rivalry." It said "Untitled [HBO] Hockey Show" ... Things came about, audition went, and never got it. But then "Heated Rivalry" came and I was like, "That must have been it, right? That had to have been the audition."

"Off Campus" is huge, too. Any chance we could see you auditioning for that show down the line?

I hope. I actually haven't seen it, yet. I got to watch it. I heard it's pretty good.

2 HAMMERHEAD SHARKS UP CLOSE WITH BERTIE GREGORY

Sunday 9 p.m., Nat Geo

The network's annual Sharkfest begins with a special from **Bertie Gregory** (right), who heads to Mexico's Pacific waters in pursuit of a hammerhead shark.

3 INSPECTOR ELLIS

Monday, Acorn TV

Season 2 of this British crime drama makes its U.S. release, once again following DCI Ellis (Sharon D. Clarke).

4 THE GHOST IN THE SHELL

Tuesday, Prime Video

This new anime is an adaptation of Masamune Shirow's fan-favorite manga series.

5 TRYING

Wednesday, Apple TV

In Season 5, Nikki (**Esther Smith**, left) and Jason (**Rafe Spall**, far left) navigate their adopted children's biological mother coming back into their lives.

6 LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE

Thursday, Netflix

Laura Ingalls Wilder's classic semi-autobiographical novels have been adapted for the small screen once again, with **Alice Halsey** (right) starring as Laura Ingalls.

7 THE FIVE STAR WEEKEND

Thursday, Peacock

Jennifer Garner (left) stars in the series adaptation of Elin Hilderbrand's 2023 novel of the same name, which sees Hollis Shaw (Garner) navigate the loss of her husband with the help of three of her friends… and a surprise guest.

8 O LITTLE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 8 p.m., Hallmark Channel

Miniature artist Olivia (**Katherine Barrell**, far right) meets Grayson (**Stephen Huszar** right), an architect whose firm is behind the buyout of her beloved Christmas market, in this new Christmas in July addition.

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

The Sun in your sign begins the week at odds with Saturn, which suggests you could be on the receiving end of criticism for not having properly completed a task. Don't argue back, just make sure you do it the right way next time.

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

Even if you are the sort of Leo who is always smiling, the early part of the week could be a bit of a letdown. Remind yourself that most of the world's population would happily change places with you — a thought that should cheer you up.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

Don't waste your time trying to impose your views on other people, because they have no intention of listening. The message of the stars for the week ahead is that the less others know about your opinions, the easier life will be for everyone.

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

You will be incredibly ambitious over the next few days but you need to be sensible about the goals you decide to set for yourself. Even a Libra has limits and if you aim too high you may never even get your feet off the ground.

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Any plans you have to be on the move over the next few days may need to be postponed in the light of new information. It may be annoying but it's no big deal, so take it in your stride. You will be on the go again soon.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You don't mind taking risks but you do mind losing money because of other people's silly mistakes, so make sure you are in control of the purse strings over the next few days. You may sometimes be reckless, but you are never stupid.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

With your ruler Saturn at odds with the Sun during the early part of the week, you may find that even the simplest plan falls foul of bad luck or the bad judgment of colleagues. If at all possible, go it alone for the next few days.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

You may not want to take a backseat to someone who in your opinion is not as smart as you are, but you probably won't get the choice. If someone pulls rank on you this week just accept it and don't make a fuss.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Anyone who thinks you lack self-discipline will see a very different sort of Pisces this coming week. True, your newly discovered self-control won't last for long, but it will show you can do it if you want to. You just don't usually want to!

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

What occurs next may seem like a setback but if you look at the situation a little more closely, you will understand that you are being forced to take it easy for the sake of your own well-being. Be kind to yourself as the new week begins.

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

The kind of pressure you have been under of late would crush most other people but you are made of sterner stuff and have no intention of giving up. The fact that you can see so many of your rivals dropping out will inspire you to carry on.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

You will insist on having your own way, and you will get it, but as the new week dawns you will realize you were being a little too pushy. If you offend a loved one you would do well to apologize and make it up to them quickly.

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Mars and Pluto link up on your birthday, making it easy to design your plans in secret and carry them out without any kind of input from other people. Your self-sufficiency will not go unnoticed, though you could not care less about praise.

Sunday Break puzzles answers

Sunday Crossword

A	D	J	U	S	T	S	■	S	T	A	I	R	S	■	H	A	R	A	R	E
L	E	I	S	U	R	E	■	T	I	P	T	O	E	■	E	L	O	P	E	S
F	A	V	O	R	I	T	E	J	E	T	S	O	N	■	C	L	A	P	T	O
A	L	E	C	■	V	I	S	O	R	S	■	T	O	C	K	■	D	R	I	B
■	■	■	■	M	I	N	C	E	■	■	A	U	R	A	■	B	I	O	R	E
A	C	A	D	I	A	■	■	■	C	A	R	P	E	T	P	E	E	V	E	S
V	A	N	I	L	L	A	T	E	A	S	E	■	S	C	A	N	■	E	E	O
G	R	I	P	■	■	H	O	S	T	S	■	■	■	H	D	T	V	■	■	■
S	E	L	L	S	H	O	R	T	■	A	G	O	N	Y	■	■	A	R	G	O
■	■	■	O	K	A	Y	■	■	O	M	A	H	A	■	A	I	R	I	E	R
S	U	B	M	I	S	S	I	O	N	■	I	M	P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E
O	N	R	A	M	P	■	P	A	I	N	T	■	■	P	I	N	A	■	■	■
S	C	A	T	■	■	C	O	T	T	A	■	W	H	E	A	T	B	R	A	N
■	■	■	S	K	O	R	■	■	■	S	A	W	E	D	■	■	L	O	N	I
A	P	B	■	E	P	I	C	■	C	A	B	I	N	S	I	D	E	J	O	B
P	L	A	N	E	T	M	O	B	I	L	E	■	■	■	M	A	S	O	N	S
P	U	T	I	N	■	E	M	A	G	■	■	S	K	I	P	S	■	■	■	■
A	S	S	N	■	R	A	P	T	■	A	R	M	A	D	A	■	G	L	U	E
R	O	M	E	R	O	■	E	A	G	L	E	E	Y	E	S	T	R	A	I	N
E	N	E	R	O	S	■	T	A	R	S	A	L	■	A	S	S	U	M	E	D
L	E	N	S	E	S	■	E	N	R	O	L	L	■	S	E	A	B	A	S	S

Su Doku

2	6	3	4	8	9	5	1	7
9	7	4	1	5	6	3	8	2
8	5	1	2	7	3	6	4	9
5	3	9	8	4	7	2	6	1
7	1	2	9	6	5	4	3	8
6	4	8	3	2	1	9	7	5
3	8	5	6	1	2	7	9	4
4	9	7	5	3	8	1	2	6
1	2	6	7	9	4	8	5	3

Very Easy #7,330

9	2	1	4	6	3	8	7	5
3	6	7	1	8	5	9	4	2
8	4	5	2	9	7	1	6	3
4	9	3	8	7	2	6	5	1
7	1	2	3	5	6	4	9	8
5	8	6	9	4	1	2	3	7
2	7	9	6	3	8	5	1	4
6	3	8	5	1	4	7	2	9
1	5	4	7	2	9	3	8	6

Difficult #7,120

7	6	1	5	3	2	4	9	8
3	5	2	8	9	4	6	1	7
8	4	9	7	1	6	2	5	3
1	7	4	2	5	8	3	6	9
2	9	5	3	6	7	8	4	1
6	8	3	9	4	1	5	7	2
9	1	6	4	8	3	7	2	5
5	2	8	6	7	9	1	3	4
4	3	7	1	2	5	9	8	6

Challenging #562

Super Su Doku

4	10	3	7	6	2	12	1	9	11	5	8
1	9	12	5	3	7	8	11	4	2	10	6
11	2	6	8	5	4	9	10	7	3	12	1
6	1	7	11	2	3	10	4	8	12	9	5
12	3	2	4	8	9	1	5	10	6	11	7
5	8	9	10	7	12	11	6	2	1	3	4
9	7	11	1	10	6	4	12	5	8	2	3
10	12	8	2	1	5	3	7	6	9	4	11
3	4	5	6	11	8	2	9	1	10	7	12
7	5	10	12	9	1	6	3	11	4	8	2
8	6	4	9	12	11	7	2	3	5	1	10
2	11	1	3	4	10	5	8	12	7	6	9

Kakuro

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	4	3	1	9	■	■	9	7	2
■	2	4	3	6	1	■	4	5	1
■	1	2	■	8	4	9	■	8	3
■	■	5	3	1	■	7	4	9	5
■	■	■	2	4	■	2	1	■	■
■	7	3	1	2	■	4	3	1	■
■	5	2	■	7	9	5	■	3	8
■	9	7	8	■	4	1	6	2	3
■	8	9	6	■	■	3	8	7	9

Kakuro #562

KEN KEN

1− 5	6	3÷ 3	1	24× 2	4
72× 6	40× 5	7+ 4	2	1	3
3	4	2	720× 6	2− 5	3+ 1
4	5− 1	6	5	3	2
5+ 2	3÷ 3	1	4	6	11+ 5
1	2	12+ 5	3	4	6

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Jumble

ANSWERS: 1A-Probate 6A-Hydrant 8A-Roof 9A-Exit 11A-Default 12A-Playpen 2D-Redwood 3D-Beau 4D-Thirsty 5D-Imitate 7D-Texture 10D-Iffy B-Statue of Liberty

Boggle Brain Busters Bonus

CROW, HAWK, DOVE, DUCK, LARK, LOON, FINCH, CRANE

SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION

E_1	M_3	E_1	R_1	A_1	L_1	D_2	RACK 1 =	60
S_1	U_1	B_3	T_1	A_1	S_1	K_5	RACK 2 =	76
B_3	R_1	I_1	O_1	C_3	H_4	E_1	RACK 3 =	64
F_4	O_1	O_1	T_1	M_3	A_1	N_1	RACK 4 =	62
A_1	P_3	R_1	I_1	C_3	O_1	T_1	RACK 5 =	67

PAR SCORE 265-275

TOTAL 329

Sunday Word Force

abate
acute
barre
brace
bract
brute
caber
carat
caret
cater
crate
cruet
curer
cuter
racer
rater
react
rebar
rebut
recur
recut
trace
truce
truer
tuber

Wonderword answer: UNITED STATES

PostBusiness

THE WEEK'S WINNERS

ANTHROPIC
The Trump administration lifted a ban on the company's most powerful AI model, ending a bitter standoff with CEO Dario Amodei.

BENDING SPOONS
Stock soars 40% in debut as investors snap up shares of the Italian tech company that bought brands including AOL, Eventbrite and Vimeo.

MARK ZUCKERBERG
Reports that the Meta boss is mulling plans to enter the cloud computing market are welcomed on Wall Street.

LOSERS

JILL BIDEN
The sharp drop of the former first lady's memoir from the top of The New York Times bestseller list is raising questions about sales numbers.

GATES FOUNDATION
Warren Buffett withholds his annual multibillion-dollar donation for the first time in decades pending a review of alleged Jeffrey Epstein ties.

EGG PRODUCERS
Agreed to pay $3.3 million to settle Justice Department charges that they artificially inflated prices from 2022-2025.

SHUN THIS VALLEY!

SUN VALLEY
IDAHO
2013
Comcast buys NBCUniversal from GE
— now it's looking to sell
2018
AT&T buys Time Warner for $85B
— then unloads it for $41B in 2022
2022
Time Warner merges with Discovery
— now acquirer Paramount is downsizing them

Billionaire moguls have not fared particularly well at their deal-making Idaho summer camp over the years.

Reuters

Memorably awful megadeals born here

CHARLES GASPARINO

MAYBE the best incubator of the worst deals in Wall Street history is happening once again this week in Sun Valley, Idaho — the so-called "summer camp for billionaires" sponsored by investment bank Allen & Co.

High in the mountains at private parties and aboard their private jets, media mavens think big thoughts about what companies they can smash together. The main beneficiaries of their brainstorms aren't investors, who usually get hosed on these combos. Nor is it consumers, who have weathered increasingly lackluster news and entertainment programming.

Instead, it's the bankers racking up huge fees — both on the front end when these deals get consummated, and years later when their clients are forced to unwind the misbegotten transactions because of the failing Frankenstein businesses they created.

Full disclosure: I have a special animus for this confab, and it's not just because I was thrown out a few years back. (That happened after I vociferously defended my Fox Business producer who had run afoul of one of the conference's weirdly overzealous security guards. Yes, they seem to think harassing reporters at a conference about the media is a good look.)

The bigger reason this confab is a joke, I would submit, is that far too many of the deals hatched at its high-end dinners have been outrageous flops.

I'll grant that gathering lots of rich and powerful people together at a resort for a few days could have some benefits. It's fun for Big Media types to sit around trading stories about the good old days, when their programming wasn't being disintermediated by the likes of Clavicular mashing his face on YouTube, or Joe Rogan opining about UFOs.

But I'm a bottom-line guy, and I can't help but notice that this conference has given birth to some of the least shareholder-friendly transactions ever recorded.

Sure — I could be missing something. That's why I tried to contact the people at Allen & Co. to talk me out of this column. But they didn't because, as I noted earlier, this is a media-banking company that isn't crazy about nosy media types.

Plus, they don't have a lot of good material to work with. Proof of just how horrible media dealmaking has become in recent years emerged just last week when Comcast decided to spin off what remains of NBCUniversal into a separate company, fully divesting itself from its much heralded 2009 acquisition.

Sign of bad times

I was an employee of CNBC when it was announced that Comcast would purchase the business news network's parent NBCU from General Electric. It was a sign of the times: GE increasingly hemorrhaging and needing to downsize the behemoth created by Jack Welch.

Mixing the manufacturing of jet engines with refrigerators, commercial lending and "Saturday Night Live," it turned out, just wasn't doing the trick. Investors were selling the stock — so relentlessly, in fact, that Welch's replacement, Jeff Immelt, would ultimately get ousted and the company totally broken apart.

Yet at the same time, bankers convinced Comcast, a Philadelphia-based cable empire that threw off lots of cash, and its longtime top executive Brian Roberts that another type of conglomerate would work. It was the future of media — or so the pitch went — to combine cable distribution, which Comcast was good at, with lots of content — news, sports and sitcoms — which Comcast wasn't good at.

Bankers were telling Roberts he was on the verge of the greatest media invention of all time. He spent nearly $30 billion to buy NBCU in a transaction that took two years (he closed his first 51% of the company in 2011, and the rest in 2013). The stock has barely budged since the merger was completed nearly 15 years ago.

Can I guarantee that the ill-fated tie-up was dreamed up at Sun Valley? Probably not, but the deal was discussed there, hot and heavy, as was its carbon copy that went down a few years later when the bean counters at AT&T decided they should own media content and spent $85 billion for Time Warner.

That was such a flop (again — distribution merged with content) that Time Warner was eventually spun out to create Warner Bros. Discovery in 2022. AT&T got back just $41 billion for its trouble. Three years later, with shares of WBD floundering, bankers began chatting about WBD as takeover bait.

Just months after last year's Sun Valley conference, Paramount Skydance swooped in and purchased WBD for $80 billion. Bankers, including JPMorgan, Evercore and Allen & Co., were said to earn tens of millions of dollars. Now the newly combined company is in the middle of downsizing.

Hopefully, the CEOs and billionaires will enjoy this week's fireside chats on AI, space travel, curing cancer and whatever else. But when bankers start whispering into their ears, they might want to leave those big ideas in Idaho.

Classifieds

nypost.com

EMPLOYMENT

PROFESSIONAL

NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation (New York, NY) seeks Senior Director to lead a team that manages & develops analytics/measurements to inform & evaluate operational strategy, priorities & programs for ambulatory care delivery. Engage in public health & regulatory activities concerning primary care program management. Salary: $186,056. Full job desc. & apply at https://www.nychealthandhospitals.org/careers/.

FINANCIAL

Senior Audit Associate (Job ID# SAA0512) sought by WWC, P.C. in NY, NY (offd wage: $146,058/yr): Dsgn & execute audit procedures based on the client's bus., the risks it faces, & its internal control processes; Interact w/ clients directly to discuss field audit issues; Collab w/ a diverse group of talented audit prof'ls; Perform audit procedures rltd to clients' fin'l stmts; Supv assigned staff in executing the audit approach & perform a first level review of staff assigned work; Research acctg & auditing matters & document conclusions; Leverage data analytics, data visualizations; Provide excellent timely client service, deliver high qlty work & strengthen client relationships. Reqmt: Master's Deg in Acctg, Finance, or closely rltd field; 1 yr of exp as an Accountant, Auditor, or in a rltd role; Eligible for CPA exam for licensure; proficiency in advanced Excel skills, incl lookup functions (VLOOKUP, HLOOKUP), pivot tables, & data validation; 2 to 3 domestic trips & 2 to 3 int'l trips annually, w/ each trip lasting approximately one week. Apply, mail CV w/ Job ID# to Patrick, 2010 Pioneer Court, San Mateo, CA 94403.

Biller (NY, NY) Verify accuracy of billing data, revise if necessary. Prep itemized stmts, bills, & invoices. Perform bookkeeping work. Answer inquiries regarding rates, delivery times, or work scheds. HS dip. reqd. $52k/yr. Mail resume: CNR Group ECS LLC, 236 W 30th St, NY, NY 10001.

Accountant. Brooklyn, NY Examine/analyze records, supporting docs, transactions; verify statements. F/T, M-F, 2 yrs exp. B/S Accounting, Finance, Management. Email res Total Care Radiology: info.astra4209@gmail.com

Admin. Coordinator. Brooklyn, NY Coordinate office services: records, invoices, fin statements, budget, payroll & personnel data. F/T, 40 hrs/wk, M-F. H/S, 2yrs exp. Email res to shifrinhome@gmail.com. Dr. Shifrin, OB/GYN PC

GENERAL HELP WANTED

Music Curriculum Coordinator: Develop the music curricula, select textbooks & other materials, train teachers, & assess the educational programs for quality & adherence to regulations & standards; Mster's of music or reltd field reqd; Resume to Hansung Presbyterian Church in New York, 3556 159th St, Flushing, NY 11358

Cost Estimator, Project Administrator, Yonkers, NY. HS Diploma +2yrs. exp. req. Salary $58,843 yr. Email resume to: besianlleshi@gmail.com United Contracting & Design Corp.

Administrative Coordinator (Dix Hills) Coordinate administrative services such as records, finances and budgets to aid management in wholesale perfume distribution operations. Email resume to Brooklyn Point USA Inc. at brooklynpointusa@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL

Child, Family, & School Social Worker. NYC. Provide counseling using behavioral therapy modalities; develop treatment plans; record progress notes in Electronic Health Record. Req'd: MS Social Work or related; licensed social worker; knowledge of clinical case evaluation; trauma and its impact; adv. clinical practice; US multicultural perspectives. M-F, 9-5. Salary: $66,560/yr. Send resume to Job #9, Community Assistance Resources & Extended Services, Inc.,465 Grand St., 2nd Fl., NY, NY10002

PROFESSIONAL

Management Analyst - NY, NY - Analyze & comprehend bar's ops & fin needs by eval sales data, cost reports, inv records, staffing models, & cust feedback; Analyze mgmt methods & procedures re: F&B cost ctrl, inv mgmt, staffing allocation, svc efficiency, & vendor perf; conduct interviews, mkt research, & onsite observations; Prep & implmt mgmt plans, ops strategies, ctrls, & SOPs; Monitor & forecast KPIs, incl rev, labor costs, F&B costs, margins, & inv turnover; Eval solutions & conduct work simplification & cost-efficiency studies; Dvlp mgmt improvements, cost-reduction strategies, rev enhancement initiatives, & svc qlty prgms; Review & analyze fin stmts, payroll records, & POS data; Research & ensure compliance with fed, state, & local regs. BS in biz mgmt, project mgmt, biz admin, or rltd w/24m exp in same or similar one such as Mgmt Analyst or Biz Analyst. $74,402/yr. Send cv to Six Square Management LLC, 356 Bowery, Lower Level, NY, NY 10012.

Managing Director of Data and Strategic Analytics needed in Long Island City, NY to lead Performance Measurement & Research for outreach prgms; be an internal expert on place-based efforts to advance economic opportunity & neighborhood-level change; lead strategy for data-driven decision-making; identify measurable goals, evaluate adherence to & efficacy of Theory of Change; provide briefings & reports on Prgm data, analysis, findings, & support stakeholders to operationalize; act as liaison for data driven projects; work on NYCKR's Research Agenda, & support launching & managing an advisory body. Salary: $107,162 to $196,000/yr; telecommuting permitted. Must have a Master's Deg in public policy, urban policy, or rltd, 3 yrs in an urban planning role for a govt agency or nonprofit community outreach organization, & 2 yrs using R & R-studio & ArcGIS PRO & QGis & engaging in data driven decision making for urban dvlpmt projects. Email CVs to NYC Kids RISE at abourgeois@nyckidsrise.org.

Staff Data Analyst. Produce user intelligence by querying data repositories & generating periodic reports with practical business insights. Req. Bach. in Data Analytics, Statistics, Applied Economics, Bus. Analytics, or rel. field, or foreign equiv. Jobsite: New York, NY. Wage range: $185,000 /yr to $256,850/yr. Send resume ref#24147 to K. Finnsson, Activision Blizzard Media LLC, 555 California St, Ste. 200, San Francisco, CA 94104.

J.T. Magen & Co. Inc., a NY-based construction management firm, seeks project manager to manage coordination, planning, direction and execution of residential & commercial construction projects in NY. Must have bachelor's degree in construction management or engineering. Salary $86,944 annually. Mail resume & cover letter to: Recruitment, JT Magen & Co. Inc., 44 West 28 Street, New York NY 10001, Ref: JR-PROJ-MGR-2.

Business Management Analyst (Job Site: New York, NY), R. SAASTO & ASSOCIATES, P.C. Salary: $75k/yr. B.A. req'd. Send resume to 450 Seventh Ave. #1805, New York, NY 10123

RESTAURANT & HOSPITALITY

Assistant Restaurant Manager wanted by Hawaiian/Korean fast casual restaurant for job in NY, NY. $65,146.00/yr. Reqd HS diploma or GED. Send cover letter w/ resume to PCPR Corp. d/b/a Red Poke, 885 8th Ave., NY, NY 10019

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NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

NASSAU COUNTY
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF TEMPORARY DEVIATION FROM USCG REGULATIONS

EFFECTIVE FROM 21:15 ON JULY 10, 2026 THROUGH 22:45 ON JULY 10, 2026, (RAIN DATE: JULY 11, 2026) THE LONG BEACH BRIDGE WILL REMAIN IN THE CLOSED POSITION.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of Jadestone Fortune LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 05/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Feona Yeung: 118 Secatogue Ave, Farmingdale NY 11735. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of LexLoo, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of PRESHABBOS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 06/06/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to Brandon Goldberg: 739 Wildwood Road West Hempstead, NY, 11552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notices published in all NYS counties.
Place your notice in NYP Classifieds.
Email Karen at kinscho@nypost.com — NEW YORK POST

Golf

PGA Tour - John Deere Classic
At TPC Deere Run; Silvis, Ill.; Purse: $8.8 million; Yardage: 7,327; Par: 71
Third Round

Lucas Glover	63-65-69	197	-16
Lee Hodges	64-66-67	197	-16
Zac Blair	63-68-67	198	-15
Ben Kohles	65-67-66	198	-15
Jackson Suber	68-64-66	198	-15
Doug Ghim	69-65-65	199	-14
Zach Johnson	64-70-66	200	-13
Ryo Hisatsune	67-65-69	201	-12
Max Homa	67-66-68	201	-12
Chandler Phillips	69-67-65	201	-12
Preston Stout	66-69-66	201	-12
Blades Brown	69-66-67	202	-11
Rickie Fowler	70-69-63	202	-11
Chris Gotterup	66-68-68	202	-11
Troy Merritt	66-66-70	202	-11
William Mouw	66-68-68	202	-11
Andrew Putnam	67-68-67	202	-11
Aaron Wise	66-69-67	202	-11
Tyler Duncan	66-66-71	203	-10
Emiliano Grillo	70-66-67	203	-10
Beau Hossler	70-67-66	203	-10
Matt Kuchar	72-66-65	203	-10
David Lipsky	67-65-71	203	-10
Mac Meissner	67-70-66	203	-10
Pontus Nyholm	68-66-69	203	-10
Erik Van Rooyen	70-69-64	203	-10
Christiaan Bezuidenhout	68-68-68	204	-9
Pierceson Coody	69-68-67	204	-9
Zecheng Dou	67-69-68	204	-9
Ben Griffin	69-65-70	204	-9
Harry Higgs	67-68-69	204	-9
Tom Hoge	73-64-67	204	-9
Stephan Jaeger	64-72-68	204	-9
Tom Kim	67-68-69	204	-9
Davis Thompson	69-69-66	204	-9
Kevin Yu	66-72-66	204	-9
Jacob Bridgeman	67-70-68	205	-8
Davis Chatfield	69-66-70	205	-8
Sungjae Im	68-69-68	205	-8
David Skinns	72-67-66	205	-8
Austin Smotherman	66-69-70	205	-8
Hayden Springer	66-68-71	205	-8
Karl Vilips	72-65-68	205	-8
Michael Brennan	66-68-72	206	-7
Nick Dunlap	67-72-67	206	-7
Tony Finau	70-68-68	206	-7
Chan Kim	68-67-71	206	-7
Peter Malnati	71-66-69	206	-7
Trace Crowe	69-69-69	207	-6
Austin Eckroat	71-67-69	207	-6
Patrick Fishburn	65-71-71	207	-6
Luke Gutschewski	67-68-72	207	-6
Mark Hubbard	72-67-68	207	-6
Keita Nakajima	70-69-68	207	-6

Champions Tour - U.S. Senior Open Championship
At Scioto County Club; Columbus, Ohio; Purse: $4 million; Yardage: 7,170; Par: 70
Third Round

Stewart Cink	67-70-64	201	-9
Padraig Harrington	69-67-66	202	-8
George McNeill	68-66-69	203	-7
Miguel Angel Jimenez	69-68-67	204	-6
Darren Clarke	71-72-64	207	-3
Paul Stankowski	69-70-68	207	-3
Jamie Donaldson	69-70-69	208	-2
Tommy Gainey	69-69-70	208	-2
Simon Griffiths	68-72-68	208	-2
Ian Poulter	70-69-69	208	-2
Billy Andrade	72-72-65	209	-1
Alex Cejka	69-69-71	209	-1
Chris Devlin	70-68-71	209	-1
Ernie Els	71-69-69	209	-1
Retief Goosen	70-73-66	209	-1
John Rollins	72-70-67	209	-1
Michael Wright	70-72-67	209	-1
Jerry Kelly	72-71-67	210	E
Pat Perez	72-68-70	210	E
Henrik Stenson	71-67-72	210	E
Charlie Wi	67-70-73	210	E

DP World Tour - BMW International Open
At Golfclub Munchen Eichenried; Munich; Purse: $3 million; Yardage: 7,354; Par: 72
Third Round

Michael Hollick, S. Africa	66-68-69	203	-13
Bernd Wiesberger, Austria	68-68-67	203	-13
Carlos Ortiz, Mexico	67-67-70	204	-12
Hennie Du Plessis, S. Africa	64-69-72	205	-11
Thomas Rosenmueller, Germany	69-71-65	205	-11
Oihan Guillamoundeguy, France	69-67-70	206	-10
Jack Senior, England	69-65-72	206	-10
Manuel Elvira, Spain	67-69-71	207	-9
Casey Jarvis, S. Africa	71-67-69	207	-9
Jeong-Weon Ko, France	67-73-67	207	-9
Marco Penge, England	68-69-70	207	-9
Kiradech Aphibarnrat, Thailand	70-68-70	208	-8
Todd Clements, England	68-70-70	208	-8
Oliver Lindell, Finland	69-69-70	208	-8
Joaquin Niemann, Chile	68-70-70	208	-8
Freddy Schott, Germany	70-70-68	208	-8
Ashun Wu, China	70-66-72	208	-8
Davis Bryant, United States	66-74-69	209	-7
Alejandro Del Rey, Spain	68-71-70	209	-7
Nacho Elvira, Spain	67-71-71	209	-7
Finn Kolle, Germany	70-67-72	209	-7
Frederic Lacroix, France	69-66-74	209	-7
Renato Paratore, Italy	70-67-72	209	-7
Andy Sullivan, England	68-69-72	209	-7
Paul Waring, England	66-69-74	209	-7
Jeff Winther, Denmark	68-70-71	209	-7

Wimbledon

At All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club; London; Purse: €30,060,000; Surface: Grass; Saturday from (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Third Round
Alex de Minaur (5), Australia, def. **Zachary Svajda, U. S.,** 6-2, 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.
Flavio Cobolli (9), Italy, def. Karen Khachanov (19), Russia, 0-6, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2.
Alexander Zverev (2), Germany, def. **Marcos Giron, United States,** 6-2, 7-6 (4), 6-4.
Jiri Lehecka (13), Czechia, def. Jaume Munar, Spain, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.
Arthur Fery, Britain, def. Zizou Bergs, Belgium, 2-6, 7-5, 2-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5).
Taylor Fritz (6), United States, def. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (5).
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-3.
Women's Singles - Third Round
Marta Kostyuk (12), Ukraine, def. **Emma Navarro (23), United States**, 6-2, 4-6, 6-1.
Ashlyn Krueger, United States, def. Daria Snigur, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2.
Marie Bouzkova (21), Czechia, def. Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 4-6, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Elise Mertens (25), Belgium, def. Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, 7-6 (4), 6-1.
Jasmine Paolini (13), Italy, def. Maria Sakkari, Greece, 6-1, 6-2.
Alexandra Eala (29), Philippines, def. Iga Swiatek (3), Poland, 7-6 (9), 6-2.
Linda Noskova (9), Czechia, def. Sorana Cirstea (17), Romania, 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 (9).
Madison Keys (26), United States, def. **Amanda Anisimova (6), United States**, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Men's Doubles - Second Round
Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori (4), Italy, def. Jesper De Jong, Netherlands, and Valentin Royer, France, 6-1, 6-4.
Thanasi Kokkinakis, Australia, and **Aleksandar Kovacevic, United States**, def. **Robert Cash and James Tracy (12), United States**, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Hendrik Jebens, Germany, and Ray Ho, Taiwan, def. Albano Olivetti and Theo Arribage (10), France, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Sander Gille, Belgium, and Sem Verbeek, Netherlands, def. Marcel Granollers, Spain, and Horacio Zeballos (2), Argentina, 6-4, 7-6 (9).
Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, and **Theodore Winegar, United States**, def. Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, and Hugo Nys (9), Monaco, 7-5, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (6).
Guido Andreozzi, Argentina, and Manuel Guinard (8), France, def. Fernando Romboli, Brazil, and John-Patrick Smith, Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (2).
Fabien Reboul and Sadio Doumbia (13), France, def. Vit Kopriva, Czechia, and Filip Pieczonka, Poland, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3.
Women's Doubles - First Round
Camila Osorio, Colombia, and Solana Sierra, Argentina, def. Samantha Murray Sharan, Britain, and Lanlana Tararudee, Thailand, 6-3, 6-4.
Women's Doubles - Second Round
Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Laura Siegemund (7), Germany, def. Eudice Chong, Hong Kong, China, and Anastasia Tikhonova, Russia, 6-2, 6-2.
Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Hanyu Guo (10), China, def. Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, and Maya Joint, Australia, 6-2, 6-3.
Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Luisa Stefani (2), Brazil, def. Caroline Dolehide and **Alycia Parks, United States,** 6-4, 6-2.
Xu Yifan and Xinyu Jiang, China, def. Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, and **Desirae Krawczyk (11), United States,** 6-4, 7-5.
Storm Hunter, Australia, and **Caty McNally (14), United States**, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Magali Kempen, Belgium, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2.
Irina Khromacheva, Russia, and Anastasia Detiuc, Czechia, def. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, and **Sofia Kenin (8), United States**, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.
Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania, and Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, def. Aldila Sutjiadi and Janice Tjen, Indonesia, 6-4, 7-6 (8).
Taylor Townsend, United States, and Katerina Siniakova (1), Czechia, def. Sara Sorribes Tormo, Spain, and Marie Bouzkova, Czechia, 6-2, 6-1.
Aleksandra Krunic, Serbia, and Anna Danilina (3), Kazakhstan, def. Anhelina Kalinina and Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, 2-6, 6-4, 6-0.
Mixed Doubles - Second Round
Zhang Shuai, China, and **Christian Harrison (3), United States**, def. Andre Goransson, Sweden, and Erin Routliffe, New Zealand, 6-4, 6-4.
Joe Salisbury, Britain, and Leylah Fernandez, Canada, def. Demi Schuurs, Netherlands, and Julian Cash (5), Britain, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Maia Lumsden and Ben Jones, Britain, def. Eden Silva and Joshua Paris, Britain, 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.
Sara Errani and Andrea Vavassori (1), Italy, def. Jodie Burrage and David Stevenson, Britain, 6-4, 6-1.
Storm Hunter and Marc Polmans, Australia, def. **Nicole Melichar-Martinez, United States,** and Theo Arribage, France, 6-3, 6-3
Mate Pavic, Croatia, and Fanny Stollar, Hungary, def. Hugo Nys, Monaco, and **Quinn Gleason, United States,** 3-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Neal Skupski, Britain, and **Desirae Krawczyk (6), United States**, def. Freya Christie and Billy Harris, Britain, 7-6 (3), 6-7 (5), 6-4.
Marcelo Arevalo, El Salvador, and Jelena Ostapenko (2), Latvia, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Albano Olivetti, France, 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (7)

Auto Racing

NASCAR Cup Series eero 400 Lineup
After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Chicagoland Speedway; Joliet, Ill.; Lap length: 1.50 miles; (Car number in parentheses)
1. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 178.241 mph.
2. (5) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 178.235.
3. (17) Chris Buescher, Ford, 178.153.
4. (6) Brad Keselowski, Toyota, 178.089.
5. (54) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 178.083.
6. (20) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 177.643.
7. (19) Chase Briscoe, Toyota, 177.637.
8. (23) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 177.515.
9. (9) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 177.491.
10. (24) William Byron, Chevrolet, 177.212.
11. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 177.160.
12. (48) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 177.038.
13. (45) Tyler Reddick, Toyota, 176.916.
14. (12) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 176.887.
15. (77) Carson Hocevar, Chevrolet, 176.869.

F1 British Grand Prix Lineup
After Saturday qualifying; race Sunday; At Silverstone Circuit; Silverstone.; Lap length: 5.89 kilometers; Third session
1. Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Italy, Mercedes, 1:28.111.
2. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 1:28.286.
3. Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Ferrari, 1:28.458.
4. George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 1:28.481.
5. Isack Hadjar, France, Red Bull Racing, 1:28.746.
6. Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 1:28.877.
7. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 1:28.893.
8. Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 1:29.032.
9. Arvid Lindblad, Great Britain, Racing Bulls, 1:29.305.
10. Liam Lawson, New Zealand, Racing Bulls, 1:29.716.

Eliminated after second session
11. Gabriel Bortoleto, Brazil, Audi, 1:29.461.
12. Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, 1:30.063.
13. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Audi, 1:30.076.
14. Oliver Bearman, Great Britain, Haas F1 Team, 1:30.501.
15. Carlos Sainz, Spain, Williams, 1:30.623.
16. Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, 1:31.341.

CFL

East Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Montreal	3	1	0	6	133	124
Hamilton	2	1	0	4	105	84
Toronto	2	2	0	4	150	153
Ottawa	0	4	0	0	102	137

West Division

	W	L	T	Pts	PF	PA
Saskatchewan	3	1	0	6	132	126
Edmonton	3	1	0	6	108	104
Calgary	2	2	0	4	164	139
Winnipeg	1	2	0	2	75	88
BC	1	3	0	2	123	137

Week 5
Thursday, July 2
Calgary 58, Toronto 36
Friday, July 3
Saskatchewan 27, Ottawa 22
Saturday
BC 36, Edmonton 24
Sunday
Winnipeg at Hamilton, 7pm
Week 6
Thursday, July 9
Ottawa at Edmonton, 9pm
Friday, July 10
Toronto at Winnipeg, 8:30pm
Saturday, July 11
Calgary at Montreal, 7pm
Sunday, July 12
Hamilton at Saskatchewan, 7pm

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day
Twenty Six Black (8th)
Lock Record: 0 for 2 (0%)
Meet Record: 4/22 $19.50

1 2 3/8 miles(T); $150,000; Leo O'brien; stplchs

The first jumper race of the meet is the Leo O'Brien. **ROCKET ONE** was a neck short in a Grade 1 at Saratoga last month. Current resume: 3 wins and 6 second place finishes from 10 starts. **MERRY MAKER** showed 3rd in a Grade 1 in May. Hasn't won since 2023. A lightly raced 0 for 3 since. **ST JAMES THE GREAT** Outrun, eased last out. Winner racing for 40k previously. Exotics value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Merry Maker(IRE),148	F Procter	3-9-2	Kingsley	5-2
2	Lynches Knock(IRE),142	C Tierney	5-x-x	Hendriks	10-1
3	St James the Great,142	S Mulqueen	7-1-5	Brion	15-1
4	Take Your Seats(IRE),142	E Dwan	3-4-4	Garner	8-1
5	Sweet Will(IRE),140	D Nevin	5-8-1	Kingsley	12-1
6	McTigue(IRE),144	G Watters	7-3-6	Murphy	9-2
7	Fil Dor(FR),158	J Coen	4-1-5	Hendriks	7-2
8	Rocket One,152	J Bargary	2-1-2	Fisher	3-1

2 6 fur; $100,000; mdn; 3up

A tired 5th for **BYE FOR NOW** when he debuted at Aqueduct. Zipped the opening 1/4 in :22 flat and faded. Better 2nd time around for Ray Handal. Choice over first-time starters **ONEBIGBEAUTIFULBILL** (Dubb/Cox/Prat/Tiz The Law), **HAPPY GO MORE** (Antonucci/Castellano/Runhappy) and **ISTHEREANORMALWIFE** (Donk/Johnny V/ Galilean).

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Recurring Revenue(L),126	M Franco	8-x-x	C Brown	7-2
2	Isthereanormalwife(M),122	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Donk	6-1
3	Happy Go More(M),122	J Castellano	x-x-x	Antonucci	3-1
4	Onebigbeautfulbill(M),122	F Prat	x-x-x	Cox	5-2
5	Bye for Now(L),122	D Davis	5-x-x	Handal	7-2
6	Music in Motion(L),122	J Ortiz	6-8-4	Rice	6-1

3 1 mile; $52,000; clm($20,000); 4up(f)

Flat 5th for both **PRINCESS BECCA** and **ALWAYS ANGELS**. Princess Becca beat a quality allowance field last winter. Does best racing on the lead and Jose Ortiz will have her forwardly placed. Always Angels scored racing for 50k last winter. **PENS STREET** fell to this height and landed 4th of 6. Santana stays on for Rice.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Pistol Liz Ablazen(L),121	R Silvera	6-6-3	Rodriguez	9-2
2	Pens Street(L),121	R Santana, Jr	4-8-5	Rice	3-1
3	Kyle's Mom(L),123	J Lezcano	5-1-1	Englehart	9-2
4	Always Angels(L),123	J Rodriguez	5-2-5	Atras	2-1
5	Shezanarcticqueen(L),121	R Gutierrez	2-6-8	Jones	30-1
6	Princess Becca(L),121	J Ortiz	5-6-6	Noda	4-1
7	Moon Gate(L),123	D Davis	1-3-2	Friedman	10-1

4 6 1/2 fur; $115,000; mdn; 3up

The **PARTY ANIMAL** ran home 3rd (at 27-1) this distance here last month. Shorter price today. **HOLY SEVEN** One-n-done. Debuted 3 lengths shy at Churchill last September. Competitively spotted off the layoff for Asmussen. J Ortiz a good sign; 1st time lasix. **SIDEARM** Turf to dirt for Barker. 0 for 2 on dirt. Has speed; may beat top 2 to the lead. And Chad Brown trains the debuting **COMMITMENT FUND** for Klaravich. Prat on the Silver State colt.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Spherical(M),122	D Davis	11-5-x	Summers	8-1
2	Sidearm(L),126	M Franco	2-3-3	Barker	5-1
3	Commitment Fund(M),122	F Prat	x-x-x	C Brown	5-2
4	Implacable(L),126	T Gaffalione	8-4-3	Summers	10-1
5	Neigh Baby(L),122	J Rodriguez	7-2-5	Englehart	12-1
6	Party Animal(L),122	E Zayas	3-4-5	Antonucci	7-2
7	Holy Seven(M),122	J Ortiz	4-x-x	Asmussen	2-1

5 1 1/16 miles(T); $62,000; mdn clm($55,000); 3up

A pair of wide 4ths for **CAPRICIOUS OUTCOME** in his 2 grass starts. Moves lower for Chad Brown who makes a rider change to Prat. **INHERENT PROMISE** makes seasonal debut for Lisa Lewis. 0 for 16 but a neck short racing this distance at Gulfstream last year. Gaffalione up. **DYNADEE** dropped to this level and settled for 2nd after leading early on. Contender. Euro-bred **CROWNED MOMENT** (Clement/Franco/Kingman) is a live first-timer.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Big Braciole(L),126	J Castellano	7-3-x	Potts	15-1
2	Dynadee(L),121	J Lezcano	2-7-7	Dini	5-1
3	Dixie Hex(L),121	D Davis	4-7-6	Handal	20-1
4	Harrier(L),119	T Kingsley	3-x-x	Kingsley	10-1
5	Languid(L),121	J Velazquez	8-3-3	R Dutrow	8-1
6	Crowned Moment(GB),121	M Franco	x-x-x	Clement	6-1
7	Inherent Promise(L),126	T Gaffalione	3-2-3	Lewis	7-2
8	Capricious Outcome(L),126	F Prat	4-4-4	C Brown	8-5
9	No Filter(L),126	R Silvera	5-3-4	Englehart	20-1

6 1 mile(T); $225,000; Kelso; 4up

The first of two turf stakes on the Sunday card. **NEAT** snapped a lengthy losing streak by winning the Cliff Hanger at Monmouth. 2 lengths short (at 14-1) in last years Kelso. About the same price today. **ZULU KINGDOM** was bet down to 1-5 and left his backers a disappointing 3rd in the Poker at the Spa in June. Winner previous 5 starts including the Grade 1 American Turf. **MY BOY PRINCE** raced evenly, 2 lengths shy in the Jaipur. Stretches, but 0 for 6 at a mile. Won the Shakertown sprinting at Keeneland in April. **COSMIC YEAR** was a close 2nd behind Neat in the Cliff Hanger. **CRUISE THE NILE** is 2 for 2 at this distance.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Zulu Kingdom(IRE),124	F Prat	3-1-4	C Brown	5-2
2	Maycocks Bay,124	J Rosario	1-3-2	Stidham	15-1
3	My Boy Prince,124	D Davis	5-4-1	Casse	9-2
4	Neat,122	R Gutierrez	1-11-4	Atras	15-1
5	Pass the Hat,124	J Velazquez	1-1-4	Mott	6-1
6	Cruise the Nile,122	J Ruiz	3-1-1	Motion	8-1
7	Itsallcomintogetha,120	J Rodriguez	5-1-2	Bartkowski	30-1
8	Mi Bago,122	J Ortiz	1-8-8	Casse	12-1
9	Cosmic Year(GB),120	M Franco	2-x-x	C Brown	6-1
10	Tiz Dashing,124	J Castellano	8-7-1	Tagg	10-1
11	Capitol Hill,120	J Alvarado	2-1-1	Mott	10-1
12	Castle Chaos,124	Rider TBA	1-2-1	Kantarmaci	8-1
13	Kinetic,124	M Franco	6-1-7	Kantarmaci	5-1
14	Dr. Kraft,124	S Gonzalez	2-4-4	Kantarmaci	4-1

7 6 fur; $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

Three-year-old debut for Robert Medina's **RUN ON STATES** after an uneventful 2YO campaign. Competitively spotted for return. Value's up; Gaffalione up. 1st time lasix. **LIBERTYS ADVANCE** The M/L fave was a distant 3rd of 12 racing off the layoff. Can move forward, 2nd off the shelf for Mott. 1st time lasix as well. **LUCKBEOURLADY** (Clement/Franco/Lookin at Lucky) makes career debut.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Midnight Honor(M),122	R Gutierrez	x-x-x	Tagg	5-1
2	Luckbeourlady(M),122	M Franco	x-x-x	Clement	4-1
3	Liberty's Secret(M),122	D Davis	5-x-x	Quick	5-1
4	Lively Pal(M),122	J Lezcano	x-x-x	Englehart	8-1
5	Carmen Amalia(M),122	J Velazquez	5-x-x	Donk	15-1
6	Garden of Grace(L),126	J Castellano	2-3-4	Potts	6-1
7	Run On States(M),122	T Gaffalione	7-5-8	Medina	8-1
8	Liberty's Advance(M),122	J Alvarado	3-5-2	Mott	5-2
9	Run Flat(M),122	F Villa Pino	x-x-x	Goberdhan	30-1

8 5 1/2 fur(T); $200,000; Harvey Pack; 4up

Playing **TWENTY SIX BLACK** in the Harvey Pack. Only 1 1/2 lengths short after getting parked wide in the Grade 1 Jaipur. Won a 200k at the Big A. **DAMONS MOUND** has won 4 of last 5. Choice if we're off turf. **OUTLAW KID** exits a 3rd place finish in a Grade 2. Won a 100k, narrowly at Laurel in April. **BRING THEBAND HOME** Home cooking. He's 3 for 3 at Saratoga and at this distance including last years Harvey Pack. Speed on the hedge.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Bring Theband Home,124	J Castellano	9-7-1	Casse	7-2
2	Boss Sully,122	J Rosario	1-9-1	Koriner	5-1
3	Possiblemente,124	J Ortiz	1-5-1	Sharp	4-1
4	Twenty Six Black,120	M Franco	4-2-1	De Paz	3-1
5	Jean Valjean,120	J Rodriguez	7-5-1	Merryman	15-1
6	Coppola,120	E Zayas	3-2-6	Moubarak	30-1
7	Chasing Liberty,122	D Davis	1-2-5	Atras	8-1
8	Outlaw Kid,122	J Ruiz	3-2-1	Weaver	10-1
9	Full Disclosure,120	T Gaffalione	7-5-2	Jehaludi	15-1
10	We're in Trouble,120	F Prat	1-8-7	McCarthy	12-1
11	Damon's Mound,124	J Alvarado	1-1-2	Mott	8-5
12	Acoustic Ave,124	M Franco	4-2-5	Rice	3-1
13	Paradise Valley,124	Rider TBA	6-1-3	Kantarmaci	20-1
14	Mischievous M,124	Rider TBA	2-4-5	Kantarmaci	20-1
15	New York Scrappy,124	S Gonzalez	1-1-2	Kantarmaci	20-1

9 1 1/2 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up

Three turns on the lawn to close out opening week. **NOBLE DYNASTY** finished with good energy last pair, the latest in the Pennine Ridge. Motts' colt should benefit extending longer. **LE GRIS** MTO. **MIZTERTONIC** was 3rd best last 3 starts, including the Belmont Gold Cup, contested at 2 miles.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Miztertonic,126	J Castellano	3-3-3	Brion	4-1
2	Complex Agenda(L),126	R Santana, Jr	1-2-7	Morley	12-1
3	Bettrluckythangood(L),126	F Prat	4-6-2	Clement	6-1
4	Fort Thomas(L),126	J Ortiz	2-4-3	Arnold II	8-1
5	Alakan(L),121	J Ruiz	4-2-5	Motion	10-1
6	Blue Pill(L),126	F Villa Pino	8-1-5	Ferraro	50-1
7	Presider(L),126	S Gonzalez	7-8-10	Kantarmaci	20-1
8	Offlee Naughty(L),126	M Franco	6-4-10	Sharp	10-1
9	Versailles Road(L),121	T Gaffalione	1-3-4	Pletcher	10-1
10	Noble Dynasty(L),121	J Alvarado	5-2-6	Mott	5-2
11	Greystone(L),126	E Zayas	4-2-4	Maker	15-1
12	Noble Factor(L),126	J Rosario	7-2-5	Brion	15-1
13	Write Off Jerry(L),126	J Velazquez	1-1-4	Maker	8-1
14	Power Seeker(L),126	Rider TBA	7-1-4	Rodriguez	7-2
15	Le Gris(L),126	F Prat	4-4-2	Rodriguez	6-5

PLAY OF THE DAY

We were looking to light it up the Fourth of July but our picks fizzled. Accent (2-1) was second, a length short. Princess Wadadli (18-1) pressed the pace, tired and finished off the board. Loss of -$42.

Hoping for better results the Fifth of July. Play $4 across the board on Neat in Race 6 and Run On States in Race 7. And bet $30 to win on Twenty Six Black in Race 8, the Harvey Pack. — *Vic Cangialosi*

Saratoga Results

FIRST-6½ fur; $120,000; alw; 3YO F

4	Mashallh (Gfflone)	3.10	2.48	2.10
1	Feminism (Ortiz)		3.16	2.32
3	Lovely Christina (Velazquez)			2.18

● $1 Exacta (4-1) $4.22 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-1-3-5) $2.68 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-1-3) $3.69

Winner picked by Vic C

SECOND-1 mile; $120,000; alc; 3up (f&m)

4	Eponn (IRE) (Ortz)	4.32	2.60	2.24
2	Accent (GB) (Prat)		2.86	2.38
7	Bourbon Betty (Davis)			4.68

Scr: Bernieandtherose, Soundbite, Fast and Frisky, Brunch With Amy, Vekoma View
● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $4.68 ● $1 Exacta (4-2) $5.56 ● $1 Quinella (2-4) $2.97 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-2-7-5) $27.17 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-2-7) $34.45

THIRD-1 1/16 mile; $115,000; mdn; 3upf

6	Shelzaw (FR) (Prt)	5.28	3.42	2.72
8	Nonconscutvtrms (Gffln)		6.22	4.82
2	Fango Creek (Alvarado)			7.90

Scr: Bourbiana, Moonlit
● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-6) $14.21 ● $1 Daily Double (4-6) $8.85 ● $1 Exacta (6-8) $14.96 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-8-2-5) $71.21 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-8-2) $82.84

Winner picked by Vic C

FOURTH-6½ fur; $105,000; alc; 3up (f&m)

8	Grc nd Grt (Rdrgz)	7.20	2.98	2.40
1	Lightning Strike (Franco)		3.20	2.50
5	Queens Cat (Alvarado)			3.32

● $1 Pick 3 (4-6-8) $37.13 ● $1 Daily Double (6-8) $13.44 ● $1 Exacta (8-1) $8.98 ● $1 Quinella (1-8) $4.25 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-1-5-2) $35.04 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-1-5) $19.48

FIFTH-6 fur; $225,000; Sanford; 2YO

2	Booked (SantnJr.)	4.74	2.92	2.30
5	Vissino (Ortiz)		4.02	2.90
3	Goodbye to Romance (Prat)			3.86

Scr: Waggley,AshcroftLane,JacksGoldenGoal
● $1 Pick 3 (6-8-2) $40.49 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (4-6-8-2) $43.69 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-4-6-8-2) $113.02 ● $1 Daily Double (8-2) $10.49 ● $1 Exacta (2-5) $11.25 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-5-3-9) $11.17 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-5-3) $16.32

Winner picked by Vic C

SIXTH-5½ fur; $105,000; alc; 3up

4	Trmn's Cmmndr (Zys)	13.36	6.26	5.18
5	Rhyton (Prat)		7.18	6.02
7	Mozambique (Silvera)			12.50

Scr: Counter Move, Joker On Fire, Burning Bridges, Punto Forty
● $1 Pick 3 (8-2-4) $55.36 ● $1 Daily Double (2-4) $18.30 ● $1 Exacta (4-5) $51.69 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-5-7-8) $1907.60 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-5-7) $664.54

SEVENTH-1 mile 1 fur; $600,000; Oaks; 3YO F

3	Knsngtn Ln (IRE) (Rsr)	48.66	18.28	8.74
4	Faithful Departed (Ortiz)		5.04	4.02
6	Fitz Right (Prat)			5.32

● $1 Pick 3 (2-4-3) $328.22 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (8-1/2/6/7-4-3) $720.49 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (6/11/12-8-1/2/6/7-4-3) $3309.00 ● $1 Daily Double (4-3) $138.05 ● $1 Exacta (3-4) $178.67 ● $0.1 Superfecta (3-4-6-5) $427.89 ● $0.5 Trifecta (3-4-6) $508.60

EIGHTH-1 $^1/_4$ miles; $500,000; Suburban; 4up

6	Phls Fgg (Crmuch)	19.82	10.22	7.80
8	Hit Show (Franco)		7.68	5.36
5	Tiztastic (Ortiz)			5.74

● $1 Pick 3 (4-3-6) $1388.95 ● $1 Daily Double (3-6) $293.03 ● $1 Exacta (6-8) $89.99 ● $0.1 Superfecta (6-8-5-7) $195.97 ● $0.5 Trifecta (6-8-5) $334.97

NINTH-1 mile 1 fur; $750,000; Derby; 3YO

9	Ttl Rl (GB) (Vlzqz)	16.68	8.10	4.44
8	West End Kd (Gaffalone)		6.70	4.00
3	Remember Mamba (Ortiz)			2.70

● $1 Pick 3 (3-6-9) $1184.55 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (1/2/6/7-4-3-6-9) $16245.10 ● $1 Daily Double (6-9) $101.82 ● $1 Exacta (9-8) $47.74 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-8-3-10) $52.59 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-8-3) $90.96

TENTH-1 mile; $130,000; alw; 4up

9	Warp Nne (Rosro)	37.46	13.38	6.26
3	Full Screen (Ortiz)		4.06	3.52
5	Reasoned Analysis (Davis)			7.06

Scr: Bourbon Day
● $1 Grand Slam (3/4/6-5/6/8-3/8/9-9) $588.22 ● $1 Pick 3 (6-9-9) $1387.51 ● $1 Daily Double (9-9) $96.70 ● $1 Exacta (9-3) $66.98 ● $0.1 Superfecta (9-3-5-7) $293.62 ● $0.5 Trifecta (9-3-5) $368.32

ELEVENTH-1 1/16 mile; $100,000; mdn; 3upf

1	Mrnng Pryr (SntnJr.)	6.38	3.70	2.92
3	Lyn's Legacy (Franco)		6.70	4.54
8	Zap That Ghost (Ortiz)			3.74

Scr: No Ordinary Love, Suited Connectors
● $1 Pick 6 (4-3-6-9-9-1) $3247.20 ● $1 Pick 3 (9-9-1) $552.93 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (6-9-9-1) $2826.72 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (3-6-9-9-1) $38329.87 ● $1 Daily Double (9-1) $74.60 ● $1 Exacta (1-3) $12.83 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-3-8-2) $68.89 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-3-8) $31.65

Winner picked by Vic C.

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	52	34	.605	—	—	9-1	L-1	31-12	21-22
Yankees	49	39	.557	4	+4½	2-8	L-1	23-19	26-20
Toronto	42	47	.472	11½	3	3-7	L-1	24-25	18-22
Baltimore	42	48	.467	12	3½	4-6	W-3	24-23	18-25
Boston	39	48	.448	13½	5	7-3	W-2	17-27	22-21

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	46	42	.523	—	—	5-5	W-1	28-14	18-28
Cleveland	47	43	.522	—	+1½	6-4	L-1	24-21	23-22
Minnesota	43	47	.478	4	2½	5-5	W-1	22-23	21-24
Detroit	39	50	.438	7½	6	5-5	W-1	23-21	16-29
Kansas City	35	54	.393	11½	10	2-8	L-4	19-26	16-28

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Seattle	46	44	.511	—	—	5-5	W-1	26-20	20-24
Texas	45	44	.506	½	—	7-3	L-1	20-19	25-25
Houston	44	47	.484	2½	2	6-4	W-1	22-24	22-23
Athletics	41	48	.461	4½	4	3-7	L-2	19-27	22-21
Los Angeles	36	54	.400	10	9½	4-6	L-5	21-24	15-30

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Minnesota 11, **Yankees** 4
Detroit 3, Texas 0
Seattle 11, Toronto 0
White Sox 3, Cleveland 1
Baltimore 8, Cincinnati 5
Houston 10, Tampa Bay 8
Philadelphia 6, Kansas City 1
Boston 8, L.A. Angels 1
Miami 7, Athletics 2

Sunday

Minnesota at **Yankees**, 1:35
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1:05
White Sox at Cleveland, 2
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 3
Detroit at Texas, 3:30
Tampa Bay at Houston, 3:30
Miami at Athletics, 4:30
Toronto at Seattle, 5
Boston at L.A. Angels, 9:30

Monday

Yankees at Tampa Bay, 6:40
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 2:10
Houston at Washington, 6:45
Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	52	35	.598	—	—	4-6	W-2	27-16	25-19
Philadelphia	50	39	.562	3	+1½	7-3	W-1	25-21	25-18
Miami	48	42	.533	5½	1	7-3	W-2	28-17	20-25
Washington	46	44	.511	7½	3	5-5	L-1	18-26	28-18
Mets	36	53	.404	17	12½	2-8	L-3	19-24	17-29

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	54	33	.621	—	—	6-4	L-1	29-18	25-15
Chicago	49	40	.551	6	+½	7-3	L-2	26-19	23-21
St. Louis	47	39	.547	6½	—	5-5	W-3	23-21	24-18
Pittsburgh	45	45	.500	10½	4	5-5	W-1	23-22	22-23
Cincinnati	40	48	.455	14½	8	3-7	L-2	19-24	21-24

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	59	31	.656	—	—	8-2	W-3	29-14	30-17
Arizona	44	44	.500	14	4	5-5	W-1	27-19	17-25
San Diego	43	45	.489	15	5	2-8	L-8	23-21	20-24
San Francisco	37	51	.420	21	11	5-5	W-1	18-22	19-29
Colorado	36	54	.400	23	13	5-5	L-1	21-25	15-29

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Saturday

Atlanta 14, **Mets** 3
Pittsburgh 7, Washington 1
Baltimore 8, Cincinnati 5
Philadelphia 6, Kansas City 1
St. Louis 3, Cubs 0
San Francisco 6, Colorado 4
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 3
Miami 7, Athletics 2
L.A. Dodgers 3, San Diego 0

Sunday

Mets at Atlanta, 12:30
Pittsburgh at Washington, 1
Baltimore at Cincinnati, 1:05
St. Louis at Cubs, 2:30
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 3
Milwaukee at Arizona, 4
San Francisco at Colorado, 4
Miami at Athletics, 4:30
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers, 7:20

Monday

Mets at Atlanta, 7:15
Philadelphia at Kansas City, 2:10
Houston at Washington, 6:45
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 7:45
Arizona at San Diego, 9:40
Toronto at San Francisco, 9:45
Colorado at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

Twins 11, Yankees 4

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	3	2	2	1	2	0	.292
Martin pr-lf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.241
Buxton cf	3	1	1	2	1	2	.269
Clemens 2b	4	2	2	3	1	1	.248
Bell dh	5	2	3	3	0	1	.247
Lewis 1b	5	0	1	0	0	1	.212
Lee 3b	4	0	0	0	1	3	.244
Kreidler ss	5	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Keaschall rf	4	2	1	1	0	0	.251
Jackson c	5	1	1	1	0	1	.300
Totals	38	11	11	11	5	10	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham dh	2	1	0	0	1	1	.236
Goldschmidt ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.271
Rice 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.267
Bellinger lf	5	0	1	1	0	1	.251
Domínguez rf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.223
Volpe ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.246
Chisholm 2b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.223
McMahon 3b	3	1	0	0	1	2	.209
Schuemann cf	2	1	2	2	2	0	.231
Sánchez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.222
Rosario ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.248
Wells c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.150
Totals	33	4	7	4	6	9	

Minnesota	320 100 140 —	11	11	0
Yankees	000 130 000 —	4	7	2

E: Chisholm (6), McMahon (5). **LOB:** Minnesota 7, New York 9. **2B:** Buxton (16), Bell (18), Domínguez (8), Bellinger (17). **HR:** Clemens (16), off Beck; Keaschall (4), off Beck; Jackson (1), off Beck; Larnach (6), off Hill; Bell (12), off Yarbrough; Bell (13), off Doval; Domínguez (4), off Matthews; Schuemann (2), off Matthews. **RBIs:** Buxton 2 (45), Clemens 3 (42), Keaschall (26), Jackson (4), Larnach (30), Bell 3 (59), Domínguez (10), Schuemann 2 (6), Bellinger (50). **SB:** Grisham (7), Martin (9). **SF:** Buxton. **RISP:** Minnesota 2 for 8; New York 1 for 10. **DP:** Minnesota 1 (Lee, Clemens, Lewis); New York 1 (Volpe, Rice).

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews	4.2	3	4	4	4	5	79	4.43
Adams	1.0	3	0	0	1	1	19	6.75
Rogers, W, 4-3	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	12	5.85
Morris, H, 12	0.2	0	0	0	0	1	5	3.82
Raya	2.0	1	0	0	1	2	35	3.00

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Beck, L, 0-1	3.2	5	5	5	2	3	87	9.45
Hill	1.0	1	1	1	1	1	21	4.18
Bird	0.2	1	0	0	1	0	15	4.33
Yarbrough	1.2	1	1	1	1	2	35	4.29
Doval	1.0	3	4	0	0	2	27	4.81
Headrick	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	1.45

T: 3:21. **A:** 40,156 (47,309).

Tigers 3, Rangers 0

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McGonigle ss	3	0	0	0	1	0	.282
Dingler c	3	0	0	0	0	0	.266
Carpenter dh	4	1	1	0	0	0	.233
Greene lf	4	1	2	2	0	1	.287
Torkelson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.213
Keith 3b	4	1	1	0	0	2	.251
McKinstry 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.200
Malgeri rf	4	0	1	1	0	0	.267
Outman cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.156
Totals	34	3	6	3	1	6	

Texas	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Pederson dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.240
Smith 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.229
Jung 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.297
Nimmo rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Osuna lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Duran ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.273
Carter cf	1	0	1	0	1	0	.190
Díaz c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.288
Lopez 2b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.317
Totals	30	0	3	0	1	5	

Detroit	210 000 000 —	3	6	0
Texas	000 000 000 —	0	3	1

E: Osuna (1). **LOB:** Detroit 6, Texas 5. **2B:** Jung (22). **HR:** Greene (12), off Quantrill. **RBIs:** Greene 2 (40), Malgeri (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Detroit 3 (Outman, Carpenter 2); Texas 1 (Nimmo). **RISP:** Detroit 0 for 4; Texas 0 for 1. **Runners moved up:** Malgeri 2.

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Flaherty, W, 2-8	5.2	3	0	0	0	5	88	4.60
Holton, H, 9	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.38
Montero, S, 1-1	3.0	0	0	0	1	0	36	3.21

Texas	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Quantrill, L, 3-1	5.0	3	3	2	1	2	66	3.35
Alexander	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	2.43
Peoples	2.0	2	0	0	0	1	30	0.00
Martin	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	7.15

T: 2:22. **A:** 37,576 (40,000).

Braves 14, Mets 3

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lindor ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.224
Soto lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.296
Mauricio ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Bichette 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.253
J.Young ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.218
Vientos 1b	5	1	2	2	0	2	.213
Wagaman dh	2	0	1	0	1	0	.214
Ewing ph-dh	2	0	0	0	0	0	.259
Alvarez c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Benge rf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.259
Taylor cf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.206
Baty 2b	3	0	1	0	1	2	.213
Totals	36	3	10	3	3	10	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Dubón lf	4	2	1	2	1	0	.267
Baldwin dh	4	1	0	0	1	0	.247
Albies 2b	4	1	1	0	1	0	.272
Olson 1b	5	1	1	0	0	2	.272
Riley 3b	4	2	1	3	0	1	.207
Harris cf	5	3	3	2	0	0	.301
White rf	2	1	2	4	0	0	.229
Yastrzemski ph-rf	2	2	2	2	1	0	.226
Bart c	3	1	1	1	0	0	.234
Mateo ss	4	0	1	0	0	2	.252
Totals	37	14	13	14	4	5	

Mets	000 012 000 —	3	10	0
Atlanta	014 102 24x —	14	13	1

E: Albies (5). **LOB:** New York 11, Atlanta 6. **2B:** Albies (16), White (5), Bart (2). **HR:** Taylor (4), off Sale; Vientos (11), off Sale; White (4), off Manaea; Dubón (9), off Manaea; Yastrzemski (5), off Warren; Riley (9), off Gerber; Harris (16), off Torrens. **RBIs:** Taylor (15), Vientos 2 (35), White 4 (18), Harris 2 (48), Dubón 2 (47), Bart (10), Yastrzemski 2 (22), Riley 3 (41). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 5 (Soto, Baty, Lindor 2, Wagaman); Atlanta 3 (Albies, Olson, Bart). **RISP:** New York 1 for 9; Atlanta 4 for 10. **DP:** Atlanta 2 (Olson, Albies, Olson; Albies, Mateo, Olson).

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Manaea, L, 1-4	5.0	6	6	6	1	4	108	5.16
Warren	2.0	4	4	4	1	1	44	3.34
Gerber	0.2	1	3	3	2	0	22	4.32
Torrens	0.1	2	1	1	0	0	7	27.00

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Sale, W, 9-6	5.0	7	3	3	2	3	98	2.27
Lee, H, 17	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	11	1.60
Ritchie, S, 1-1	3.0	3	0	0	1	4	46	4.53

T: 3:03. **A:** 40,168 (41,149).

White Sox 3, Guardians 1

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Vargas 1b	3	1	0	1	1	1	.245
Grichuk dh	3	0	1	0	0	0	.262
Teel ph-dh	2	0	1	0	0	1	.222
Meidroth 2b-ss	5	0	0	0	0	2	.267
C.Montgomery 3b	5	1	2	2	0	0	.221
Perez lf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.190
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	1	0	0	2	.244
Acuña ss	2	0	1	0	0	0	.221
Antonacci ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.290
Peters cf	3	1	2	0	1	0	.291
Romo c	2	0	1	0	2	0	.140
Totals	35	3	9	3	4	7	

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Bazzana 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.250
DeLauter dh	4	0	1	0	0	3	.269
Manzardo 1b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.228
Hoskins ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.178
Watson rf-cf	4	0	0	0	0	3	.250
Rocchio ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.273
Ingle lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.059
Arias 3b	0	0	0	0	1	0	.208
Schneemann 3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.212
Fry ph-rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Hedges c	3	1	2	1	0	0	.281
Kwan cf-lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.219
Totals	33	1	7	1	1	14	

Chicago	100 000 011 —	3	9	0
Cleveland	000 010 000 —	1	7	2

E: Ingle (3), Festa (2). **LOB:** Chicago 10, Cleveland 6. **2B:** C.Montgomery (16), Grichuk (9), Peters (19). **3B:** Kwan (2). **HR:** C.Montgomery (22), off Herrin; Hedges (3), off Burke. **RBIs:** C.Montgomery 2 (51), Vargas (56), Hedges (14). **SB:** Rocchio (15), Watson 2 (4). **CS:** Rocchio (5). **SF:** Vargas. **Runners left in scoring position:** Chicago 7 (Vargas 3, Perez 2, Romo, C.Montgomery); Cleveland 3 (Ingle, Fry, DeLauter). **RISP:** Chicago 0 for 10; Cleveland 0 for 8. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Vargas, Acuña, Vargas).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Burke	6.0	7	1	1	0	11	95	3.56
Eisert, W, 2-1	2.0	0	0	0	0	2	23	4.91
Taylor, S, 3-6	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	17	2.96

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Messick	5.0	5	1	1	3	3	100	2.80
Armstrong	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	4.33
Gaddis	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	8	3.12
Herrin, L, 1-4	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	15	3.16
Festa	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	19	3.93

T: 2:37. **A:** 31,727 (34,788).

Pirates 7, Nationals 1

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
K.Griffin ss	5	1	1	0	0	2	.271
Lowe 2b	5	0	1	2	0	2	.242
Reynolds lf	5	1	2	0	0	0	.284
Valdez rf	4	0	1	1	0	2	.333
Cook cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.161
O'Hearn dh	4	1	2	0	0	1	.283
Gonzales 3b	3	1	2	1	1	0	.307
Mangum cf-rf	3	1	0	0	0	0	.307
Callihan 1b	3	1	1	0	1	1	.242
Davis c	3	1	1	2	1	0	.153
Totals	36	7	11	6	3	9	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wood rf	2	1	1	1	2	0	.269
García 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.280
Chaparro ph-1b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.167
Mead 3b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.227
Abrams ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.270
Lile lf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.259
Crews cf	4	0	1	0	0	3	.230
Tena dh	3	0	1	0	1	0	.226
Millas c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.185
Nuñez 2b	2	0	0	0	1	0	.235
Totals	30	1	6	1	5	11	

Pittsburgh	140 000 020 —	7	11	0
Washington	100 000 000 —	1	6	0

LOB: Pittsburgh 6, Washington 7. **HR:** Wood (23), off Ashcraft. **RBIs:** Davis 2 (22), Lowe 2 (60), Valdez (17), Gonzales (40), Wood (56). **SB:** K.Griffin 2 (19), Reynolds (6), Lile (8), Mangum (17). **CS:** Valdez (1). **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 4 (K.Griffin 2, O'Hearn, Callihan); Washington 2 (García, Chaparro). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 6 for 15; Washington 1 for 5. **DP:** Pittsburgh 3 (Lowe, K.Griffin, Callihan; K.Griffin, Callihan; Lowe, K.Griffin, Callihan); Washington 1 (Abrams, Nuñez, García).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ashcraft, W, 9-3	5.2	6	1	1	2	7	94	3.24
Ramírez	1.0	0	0	0	3	1	26	3.51
Montgomery, H, 9	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	4	4.50
Santana	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	4.95
Sanders	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	6.23

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Palmquist, L, 0-1	1.0	4	4	4	0	3	37	8.44
Littell	6.0	4	1	1	1	3	87	5.02
Cornelio	2.0	3	2	2	2	3	37	7.94

T: 2:50. **A:** 28,125 (41,376).

Astros 10, Rays 8

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Aranda dh	5	1	1	0	0	4	.287
Caminero 3b	4	2	2	2	1	1	.291
Mullins cf	3	1	1	0	2	2	.215
Vilade 1b	5	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Mesa lf	2	1	0	1	2	1	.176
DeLuca rf	5	1	2	2	0	0	.265
Palacios 2b	4	1	2	2	1	0	.233
Walls ss	4	1	1	0	1	1	.229
Feduccia c	3	0	0	0	1	0	.231
Totals	35	8	9	7	8	10	

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Altuve 2b	3	3	2	0	2	0	.234
Alvarez dh	4	2	3	6	0	0	.324
Paredes 3b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.251
Walker 1b	3	1	1	0	0	1	.238
Wade lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.267
Dezenzo ph-lf	1	0	1	1	0	0	.208
Smith rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.220
Diaz c	4	1	1	2	0	0	.235
Trammell cf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.257
Allen ss	3	2	1	0	1	0	.244
Totals	33	10	11	10	3	4	

Tampa Bay	123 100 100 —	8	9	0
Houston	200 210 302 —	10	11	1

No outs when winning run scored. **E:** Allen (1). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 9, Houston 4. **2B:** Altuve (13), Allen (3). **3B:** Altuve (1). **HR:** Caminero (26), off Brown; Palacios (2), off Brown; DeLuca (5), off Javier; Alvarez (28), off Rasmussen; Diaz (4), off Rasmussen; Alvarez (29), off Legumina. **RBIs:** Caminero 2 (57), Palacios 2 (24), Mesa (9), DeLuca 2 (25), Alvarez 6 (67), Diaz 2 (19), Paredes (46), Dezenzo (3). **SB:** Mesa (2), DeLuca 2 (9), Mullins (14), Caminero (1), Palacios (8). **SF:** Mesa, Alvarez. **RISP:** Tampa Bay 2 for 11; Houston 4 for 8. **DP:** Tampa Bay 1 (Walls, Palacios, Vilade); Houston 1 (Allen, Altuve, Walker).

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rasmussen	5.0	6	5	5	1	2	77	2.78
Sulser, H, 7	1.0	2	3	3	1	0	20	5.89
Cleavinger, H, 14	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	14	4.01
Kimbrel, BS, 0-1	1.1	1	0	0	0	1	19	4.81
Legumina, L, 2-2	0.0	1	2	2	1	0	12	3.57

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Brown	4.0	6	7	7	4	3	82	3.68
Pearson	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	18	4.00
Javier	2.0	2	1	1	1	4	39	11.12
King	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	22	2.13
Hader, W, 3-0	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	17	0.64

T: 3:03. **A:** 37,457 (41,000).

Mariners 11, Blue Jays 0

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lukes rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Guerrero dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Straw p	0	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Okamoto 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Varsho cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.252
Clase ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Clement 2b-ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.293
Piñango lf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.268
Keys 1b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Valenzuela c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.235
Giménez ss	2	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Urías 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.375
Totals	28	0	1	0	0	8	

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crawford 3b	3	1	0	0	1	1	.213
Wilson ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.208
Arozarena lf	4	3	3	4	1	0	.287
Canzone dh	4	2	2	3	1	0	.273
Raleigh c	4	1	1	3	0	0	.161
Naylor 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.251
Raley rf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.228
Mastrobuoni rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.217
Young 2b	3	1	1	0	0	2	.260
Kennedy ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.000
Robles cf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.241
Emerson ss	4	2	2	0	0	1	.217
Totals	35	11	11	11	3	9	

Toronto	000 000 000 —	0	1	1
Seattle	050 024 00x —	11	11	0

E: Okamoto (8). **LOB:** Toronto 1, Seattle 4. **2B:** Arozarena (21), Young (13). **HR:** Arozarena (9), off Bieber; Canzone (14), off Bieber; Raleigh (9), off Nance. **RBIs:** Robles (4), Arozarena 4 (41), Canzone 3 (37), Raleigh 3 (27). **RISP:** Toronto 0 for 0; Seattle 4 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Canzone.

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Bieber, L, 0-1	4.0	6	7	7	3	3	89	9.00
Macko	1.2	3	3	3	0	2	33	2.76
Nance	0.1	2	1	1	0	1	13	3.73
Fisher	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	17	3.33
Straw	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0.00

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gilbert, W, 7-5	7.1	1	0	0	0	7	91	3.19
Wilcox	1.2	0	0	0	0	1	20	4.80

T: 2:27. **A:** 41,181 (47,929).

Orioles 8, Reds 5

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	5	1	1	0	0	2	.226
Rutschman dh	5	1	2	2	0	1	.256
Ward lf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.250
Alonso 1b	3	1	3	1	2	0	.254
Basallo c	4	1	1	3	1	2	.257
Cowser cf	4	1	1	0	1	1	.224
Taveras rf	4	1	0	0	1	1	.244
Holliday 2b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.187
Alexander 3b	4	1	1	2	0	1	.302
Totals	36	8	10	8	7	9	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	2	1	1	1	.276
Stewart 1b	4	2	1	0	1	0	.254
Bleday lf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.237
E.Suárez 3b	5	0	2	2	0	1	.208
Lowe dh	4	0	0	0	1	2	.247
Steer rf	3	1	1	0	1	0	.237
Trevino c	4	1	3	1	0	0	.267
Friedl cf	4	1	1	1	0	0	.181
McLain 2b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.192
Totals	35	5	11	5	6	6	

Baltimore	300 500 000 —	8	10	0
Cincinnati	130 000 100 —	5	11	0

LOB: Baltimore 8, Cincinnati 9. **2B:** Rutschman 2 (18), Alonso (16), Stewart (20), Trevino (3). **3B:** Friedl (1). **HR:** Basallo (14), off Greene. **RBIs:** Basallo 3 (42), Alexander 2 (28), Rutschman 2 (45), Alonso (60), E.Suárez 2 (31), Trevino (8), Friedl (11), De La Cruz (41). **SB:** Holliday (4), De La Cruz (13), Alexander (9). **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 4 (Taveras 3, Henderson); Cincinnati 4 (Steer, E.Suárez, McLain, Lowe). **RISP:** Baltimore 5 for 12; Cincinnati 4 for 14. **DP:** Baltimore 2 (Holliday, Henderson, Alonso; Holliday, Henderson, Alonso).

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Young, W, 7-2	5.0	8	4	4	3	5	102	3.38
Wolfram, H, 10	1.0	0	1	1	1	0	8	4.15
Cano	1.0	2	0	0	1	0	19	2.48
Kittredge, H, 4	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	4.91
Wells, S, 2-2	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	16	3.02

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Greene, L, 0-1	3.1	7	8	8	4	7	89	21.60
Moll	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	14	3.93
J.Garcia	2.0	0	0	0	0	1	22	2.08
Lowder	3.0	2	0	0	3	0	40	5.07

T: 3:02. **A:** 33,047 (43,891).

Phillies 6, Royals 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turner ss	5	1	1	0	0	1	.239
Schwarber dh	4	0	3	0	1	1	.256
Harper 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.274
Marsh lf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.310
Bohm 3b	4	2	2	1	1	0	.227
Stott 2b	4	1	1	0	0	1	.244
Realmuto c	4	1	1	2	0	0	.202
Rincones rf	4	1	2	2	0	2	.188
Hill pr-rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.239
Crawford cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.253
Totals	38	6	12	5	3	8	

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Jensen c	4	0	0	0	0	3	.247
Witt ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.286
Thomas cf	4	1	1	0	0	1	.214
Caglianone 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.261
Loftin 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.225
Marte dh	3	0	1	0	0	2	.262
Collins lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.230
Massey 2b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.252
Tolbert rf	2	0	2	0	0	0	.243
Misner ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Totals	32	1	5	1	0	15	

Philadelphia	000 301 110 —	6	12	0
Kansas City	000 100 000 —	1	5	1

E: Wacha (2). **LOB:** Philadelphia 8, Kansas City 5. **2B:** Bohm (13), Rincones (1), Thomas (10). **HR:** Realmuto (6), off Wacha; Rincones (2), off Wacha; Bohm (11), off Wacha. **RBIs:** Realmuto 2 (27), Rincones 2 (5), Bohm (46), Loftin (25). **SB:** Tolbert 2 (9). **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 10; Kansas City 1 for 5. **DP:** Kansas City 1 (Witt, Thomas, Caglianone, Thomas).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Luzardo, W, 7-4	6.0	4	1	1	0	9	95	3.75
Bowlan	1.0	1	0	0	0	3	20	3.29
Kerkering	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	14	2.55
Mayza	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	11	2.88

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wacha, L, 5-6	6.0	8	4	4	1	7	105	3.45
Erceg	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	21	5.35
Cuas	1.0	2	1	1	0	0	17	6.00
Way	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	22	3.38

T: 2:34. **A:** 30,419 (38,427).

Giants 6, Rockies 4

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ramos rf	5	1	1	0	0	1	.266
Arraez 2b	5	1	3	1	0	1	.330
Schmitt 3b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.283
Devers 1b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.246
Lee cf	5	1	1	1	0	0	.317
Adames ss	4	1	2	2	1	1	.232
Eldridge dh	5	1	2	2	0	1	.280
Bericoto lf	4	0	2	0	0	2	.298
Gilbert ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.225
Haase c	3	0	0	0	1	2	.174
Totals	41	6	14	6	3	8	

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Castro 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Karros 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.263
Goodman c	2	1	2	0	2	0	.251
Freeman rf	3	1	0	0	1	0	.268
Carrigg cf	4	2	2	3	0	0	.293
McCarthy lf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.307
Fulford dh	3	0	0	0	0	2	.188
Moniak ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.282
Tovar ss	3	0	0	0	0	0	.210
Rumfield ph	1	0	1	1	0	0	.295
Johnston 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.312
Totals	32	4	7	4	4	7	

San Francisco	411 000 000 —	6	14	0
Colorado	300 000 001 —	4	7	0

LOB: San Francisco 12, Colorado 5. **2B:** Schmitt (16), Adames (21), Eldridge (12), Ramos (13), Bericoto 2 (3), Lee (20). **HR:** Eldridge (7), off S.Sullivan; Carrigg (4), off Ray. **RBIs:** Lee (33), Adames 2 (34), Eldridge 2 (19), Arraez (33), Carrigg 3 (19), Rumfield (47). **SB:** Adames 2 (2). **CS:** Johnston (5). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Francisco 8 (Eldridge 2, Bericoto, Ramos 2, Haase, Lee, Devers); Colorado 2 (McCarthy 2). **RISP:** San Francisco 3 for 14; Colorado 2 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Devers, Gilbert, Freeman, McCarthy.

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ray, W, 8-6	6.0	5	3	3	3	4	88	3.45
Hentges, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.25
Smith, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	1.69
Kilian, S, 8-10	1.0	2	1	1	0	2	15	4.14

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
S.Sullivan, L, 0-3	5.2	12	6	6	2	4	105	8.87
Mejia	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	23	6.08
Senzatela	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	10	3.00
Romano	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	10	9.00

T: 2:52. **A:** 48,635 (50,144).

Cardinals 3, Cubs 0

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	4	1	3	1	1	1	.266
Herrera dh	3	0	1	1	0	1	.259
Walker rf	3	1	1	0	1	1	.291
Burleson 1b	4	0	2	1	0	2	.279
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.249
Fermín 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.271
Nootbaar lf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Pagés c	4	0	0	0	0	2	.216
Church cf	2	1	0	0	2	1	.255
Totals	32	3	8	3	4	13	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	1	0	1	0	2	0	.289
Bregman 3b	3	0	0	0	1	1	.240
Busch 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.232
Suzuki dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.267
Happ lf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.221
Hoerner 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.241
Conforto rf	3	0	2	0	1	1	.250
Amaya c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.223
Ramirez ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.255
Swanson ss	3	0	0	0	0	2	.206
Totals	30	0	5	0	4	12	

St. Louis	101 000 010 —	3	8	0
Chicago	000 000 000 —	0	5	1

E: Ferguson (). **LOB:** St. Louis 7, Chicago 8. **2B:** Wetherholt (9), Walker (18). **HR:** Wetherholt (13), off Imanaga. **RBIs:** Wetherholt (36), Herrera (39), Burleson (63). **SB:** Burleson (3). **CS:** Crow-Armstrong (6). **RISP:** St. Louis 2 for 12; Chicago 0 for 5. **DP:** St. Louis 1 (Winn, Burleson); Chicago 3 (Swanson, Hoerner, Busch; Bregman, Swanson, Busch; Swanson, Hoerner, Busch).

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Leahy, W, 7-4	5.0	3	0	0	2	6	77	3.86
Soriano, H, 12	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	3.29
Stanek, H, 15	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	11	4.81
Romero, H, 20	1.0	1	0	0	1	2	18	3.69
O'Brien, S, 22-26	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	13	3.72

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Imanaga, L, 5-7	4.2	4	2	2	3	8	86	4.28
Ferguson	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	16	5.87
Rolison	0.2	1	0	0	1	1	16	1.93
Thornton	1.1	2	1	1	0	1	26	2.73
Thielbar	1.1	0	0	0	0	1	12	4.01

T: 2:50. **A:** 38,872 (41,363).

Red Sox 8, Angels 1

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Seigler 2b	3	2	1	0	1	0	.319
Rafaela cf	4	1	1	1	1	1	.284
Abreu rf	3	2	1	2	2	0	.267
Contreras 1b	5	1	1	3	0	0	.285
Durbin 3b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.226
Gonzalez dh	5	1	1	2	0	1	.300
Duran lf	2	0	0	0	2	1	.193
Monasterio ss	4	1	1	0	0	1	.220
Wong c	4	0	1	0	0	2	.287
Totals	35	8	7	8	6	6	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Neto ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.225
Guzman 3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.253
Schanuel 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.257
Soler dh	3	0	0	0	1	0	.219
Lowe cf-lf	3	1	1	1	0	1	.217
Adell rf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.239
Meckler lf	2	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Siri ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Walton 2b	2	0	1	0	1	1	.311
Heineman c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.161
Totals	28	1	4	1	3	9	

Boston	300 040 010 —	8	7	0
Los Angeles	010 000 000 —	1	4	1

E: Schanuel (6). **LOB:** Boston 8, Los Angeles 3. **2B:** Seigler (6), Abreu (18), Rafaela (20). **HR:** Contreras (19), off Aldegheri; Gonzalez (1), off Natera; Lowe (7), off Gray. **RBIs:** Contreras 3 (56), Abreu 2 (41), Gonzalez 2 (4), Rafaela (36), Lowe (19). **SB:** Duran 2 (14). **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 6 (Monasterio, Contreras 3, Seigler, Wong); Los Angeles 1 (Heineman). **RISP:** Boston 4 for 14; Los Angeles 0 for 2. **Runners moved up:** Monasterio. **GIDP:** Heineman, Schanuel. **DP:** Boston 3 (Seigler, Monasterio, Contreras; Seigler, Monasterio, Contreras; Durbin, Monasterio, Contreras).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Gray, W, 10-1	6.0	4	1	1	2	7	70	2.61
Morán	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	3.03
Weissert	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	12	4.05
Gamboa	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3.60

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Aldegheri, L, 3-4	4.0	1	3	3	4	2	88	5.08
Natera	0.2	3	4	4	1	0	23	3.97
Zeferjahn	1.1	0	0	0	1	2	24	3.98
Silseth	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	11	2.78
Suter	2.0	3	1	1	0	0	37	4.59

T: 2:38. **A:** 43,599 (45,517).

Diamondbacks 4, Brewers 3

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Turang 2b	5	1	3	0	0	1	.269
Yelich dh	5	1	1	2	0	2	.246
Bauers lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.266
Chourio ph-lf	2	1	1	1	0	0	.293
Contreras c	5	0	2	0	0	1	.295
Mitchell cf	4	0	2	0	0	1	.269
Vaughn 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.328
Frelick rf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.243
Pratt ss	3	0	1	0	1	0	.200
Ortiz 3b	4	0	2	0	0	0	.208
Totals	38	3	12	3	2	10	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Marte 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.267
Perdomo ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.236
Carroll rf	3	1	0	0	1	2	.266
Moreno dh	3	1	1	0	0	1	.286
Del Castillo c	3	1	1	3	0	1	.185
Arenado 3b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Kepler lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.111
Gurriel ph	1	0	1	0	0	0	.219
Barrosa pr-cf	0	1	0	0	0	0	.183
Vargas 1b	3	0	1	1	0	0	.264
Troy cf-lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.219
Totals	28	4	4	4	2	9	

Milwaukee	000 020 001 —	3	12	0
Arizona	300 000 01x —	4	4	0

LOB: Milwaukee 10, Arizona 2. **2B:** Turang 2 (20), Mitchell (17), Vargas (12). **HR:** Yelich (6), off Kelly; Chourio (13), off Sewald; Del Castillo (5), off Woodruff. **RBIs:** Yelich 2 (28), Chourio (35), Del Castillo 3 (23), Vargas (46). **Runners left in scoring position:** Milwaukee 7 (Contreras, Bauers 2, Ortiz 2, Frelick 2); Arizona 1 (Carroll). **RISP:** Milwaukee 1 for 10; Arizona 1 for 4. **DP:** Arizona 1 (Perdomo, Marte, Vargas).

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Woodruff, L, 2-2	3.2	2	3	3	1	6	61	2.98
Yoho	2.2	0	0	0	0	1	27	4.15
Koenig	1.2	2	1	1	1	2	26	1.42

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly, W, 6-8	5.0	8	2	2	2	6	92	5.71
Loáisiga, H, 6	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	2.36
Garcia, H, 9	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	16	2.11
Morillo, H, 9	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	10	2.62
Sewald, S, 20-21	1.0	1	1	1	0	2	13	4.50

: 2:32. **A:** 33,154 (48,359).

Marlins 7, Athletics 2

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Hicks dh	5	2	3	0	0	0	.288
Stowers 1b	4	2	2	2	1	1	.247
Lopez ss	5	1	3	3	0	0	.341
Edwards 2b	3	0	1	1	2	0	.299
Conine lf-rf	4	0	0	0	1	2	.233
Caissie rf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.236
Hernández ph-lf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.222
Ruiz pr-lf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.241
Marsee cf	4	0	1	0	1	1	.190
Mack c	5	1	2	1	0	1	.255
Sanoja 3b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.281
Totals	38	7	13	7	6	7	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kurtz 1b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.278
Gelof lf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.283
Butler rf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.200
Heim c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.234
Cortes dh	4	1	2	0	0	2	.281
Bolte cf	4	1	2	0	0	0	.299
Kuroda-Grauer 3b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.444
McNeil 2b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.227
Williams ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.286
Totals	32	2	8	1	1	9	

Miami	003 010 201 —	7	13	2
Athletics	000 000 101 —	2	8	0

E: Mack (5), Lopez (12). **LOB:** Miami 10, Athletics 7. **2B:** Sanoja (15), Lopez (24), Gelof (11), Cortes (10). **HR:** Mack (7), off Civale; Lopez (8), off Civale; Stowers (11), off Morris. **RBIs:** Mack (23), Lopez 3 (40), Stowers 2 (39), Edwards (35), McNeil (26). **SF:** McNeil. **Runners left in scoring position:** Miami 4 (Conine, Hicks, Mack 2); Athletics 3 (Cortes, Williams 2). **RISP:** Miami 3 for 12; Athletics 1 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Sanoja, McNeil 2. **DP:** Miami 2 (Lopez, Edwards, Stowers; Lopez, Stowers); 1 (Kurtz).

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Alcantara, W, 10-4	8.0	6	1	1	1	8	100	4.00
Zuber	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	14	5.23

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Civale, L, 5-6	4.2	6	4	4	2	6	84	5.10
Alvarado	0.1	0	0	0	1	1	17	5.40
Suarez	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	13	4.76
Morris	3.0	7	3	3	2	0	68	11.70

T: 2:51. **A:** 12,532 (14,014).

Dodgers 3, Padres 0

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Tatis rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.279
Cronenworth 2b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.171
Machado 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.187
Sheets lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.236
France 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.259
Bogaerts ss	2	0	1	0	1	1	.234
Merrill cf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.213
Andujar dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.260
Campusano c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.278
Song ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Durán c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.137
Totals	30	0	4	0	2	13	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Edman cf	3	1	0	0	0	1	.354
Pages dh	4	0	1	1	0	0	.269
Freeman 1b	3	1	2	2	1	1	.297
Betts ss	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Tucker rf	2	0	0	0	1	0	.244
Hernández lf	3	0	0	0	0	2	.265
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.265
Rushing c	2	1	0	0	1	2	.261
Freeland 2b	3	0	1	0	0	1	.225
Totals	27	3	5	3	3	7	

San Diego	000 000 000 —	0	4	0
Los Angeles	001 001 01x —	3	5	0

LOB: San Diego 5, Los Angeles 4. **2B:** Tatis (17), Betts (10). **HR:** Freeman (15), off Hart. **RBIs:** Pages (63), Freeman 2 (49). **Runners left in scoring position:** San Diego 2 (France, Cronenworth); Los Angeles 1 (Betts). **RISP:** San Diego 0 for 2; Los Angeles 2 for 5. **Runners moved up:** Pages. LI**DP:** Merrill. **GIDP:** Betts. **DP:** San Diego 1 (Bogaerts, Cronenworth, France); Los Angeles 1 (Freeman).

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peralta	1.0	1	0	0	1	0	14	2.33
Canning, L, 1-6	4.0	2	1	1	2	4	73	6.71
Hart	2.0	1	1	1	0	3	31	5.28
Miller	1.0	1	1	1	0	0	13	1.01

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Yamamoto, W, 9-5	7.0	3	0	0	2	10	100	2.49
Stewart, H, 2	0.2	1	0	0	0	0	12	1.35
Vesia, H, 14	0.1	0	0	0	0	1	3	2.48
Klein, S, 2-3	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	16	2.29

T: 2:29. **A:** 52,284 (56,000).

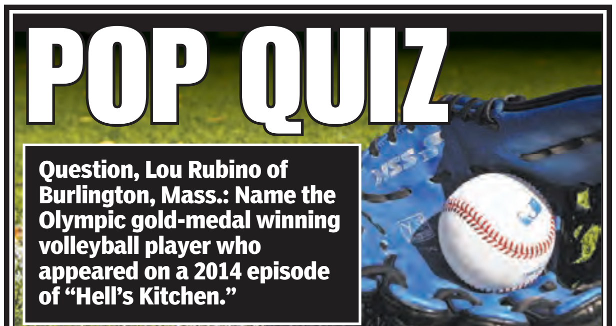
MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	10	1	3	33	31	11
Inter Miami CF	9	2	4	31	39	28
Chicago	8	4	2	26	27	16
New England	8	5	1	25	22	18
Red Bulls	6	5	4	22	25	32
Charlotte FC	6	6	3	21	24	23
Cincinnati	5	5	5	20	36	37
NYCFC	5	6	4	19	25	21
D.C. United	4	5	6	18	21	25
Columbus	4	7	4	16	21	23
CF Montréal	4	8	2	14	22	31
Orlando City	4	9	2	14	23	44
Toronto FC	3	6	5	14	22	29
Atlanta	3	9	2	11	14	23
Philadelphia	1	10	4	7	18	30

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	2	2	32	34	12
San Jose	10	3	2	32	34	15
Real Salt Lake	8	4	2	26	26	19
FC Dallas	7	4	4	25	30	22
Los Angeles FC	7	5	3	24	24	17
Seattle FC	7	3	3	24	17	11
Houston	7	6	1	22	19	23
Minn. United	6	5	4	22	18	22
LA Galaxy	5	5	5	20	22	22
San Diego FC	4	6	5	17	30	27
Colorado	5	9	1	16	25	24
St Louis City	4	6	4	16	16	20
Portland	4	8	2	14	22	28
Austin FC	3	7	5	14	19	31
Sporting K.C.	3	9	2	11	14	36

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Thursday, July 16
Toronto FC at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Vancouver at Chicago, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at St Louis City, 8:30pm
Portland at Seattle FC, 10:30pm



POP QUIZ

Question, Lou Rubino of Burlington, Mass.: Name the Olympic gold-medal winning volleyball player who appeared on a 2014 episode of "Hell's Kitchen."

ANSWER TO LAST WEEK'S QUESTION: JIMMIE FOXX SERVED AS THE (LOOSE) INSPIRATION FOR TOM HANKS' "JIMMY DUGAN" IN "A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN."

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: KENDAVIDOFF4@GMAIL.COM

FIFA World Cup

ROUND OF 32
Sunday, June 28
South Africa 0, Canada 1
Monday, June 29
Brazil 2, Japan 1
Germany 1, Paraguay 1, Paraguay advances 4-3 on penalty kicks
Netherlands 1, Morocco 1, Morocco advances 3-2 on penalty kicks
Tuesday, June 30
Norway 2, Ivory Coast 1
France 3, Sweden 0
Mexico 2, Ecuador 0
Wednesday, July 1
England 2, Congo 1
Belgium 3, Senegal 2, AET
United States 2, Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Thursday, July 2
Spain 3, Austria 0
Portugal 2, Croatia 1
Switzerland 2, Algeria 0
Friday, July 3
Australia 1, Egypt 1 FT (Egypt advance 4-2 on penalties)
Argentina 3, Cape Verde 2, AET
Colombia 1, Ghana 0
ROUND OF 16
Saturday
Morocco 3, Canada 0
France 1, Paraguay 0
Sunday
Brazil vs. Norway, 4pm
Mexico vs. England, 8pm
Monday
Portugal vs. Spain, 3pm
United States vs. Belgium, 8pm
Tuesday
Argentina vs. Egypt, 12pm
Switzerland vs. Colombia, 4pm

NBA Summer League Schedule

Friday
Miami 88, San Antonio 87
Golden State 104, L.A. Lakers 72
Saturday
Kings 79, **Nets** 76
Memphis 111, Oklahoma City 74
Milwaukee 97, Golden State 83
Utah 103, Atlanta 102, OT
Sunday
Nets vs. Bucks, 3pm
Miami vs. L.A. Lakers, 4:30pm
Golden State vs. Sacramento, 5pm
San Antonio vs. Golden State, 7pm
Monday
Golden State vs. **Nets**, 8pm
L.A. Lakers vs. San Antonio, 7:30pm
Atlanta vs. Oklahoma City, 7pm
Memphis vs. Utah, 9pm
Miami vs. Golden State, 10pm
Milwaukee vs. Sacramento, 10pm
Tuesday
Atlanta vs. Memphis, 7pm
Oklahoma City vs. Utah, 9pm
Thursday
Minnesota vs. New Orleans, 3:30pm
San Antonio vs. Atlanta, 4:30pm
Detroit vs. Philadelphia, 5:30pm
Golden State vs. Dallas, 7pm
Charlotte vs. Orlando, 7:30pm
Utah vs. Washington, 9pm
Sacramento vs. L.A. Clippers, 11pm
Friday
Nets vs. **Knicks**, 6pm
Milwaukee vs. Miami, 4pm
Cleveland vs. Indiana, 4:30pm
Houston vs. Denver, 6:30pm
Chicago vs. Memphis, 8pm
Boston vs. Toronto, 9pm
Oklahoma City vs. L.A. Lakers, 10pm
Portland vs. Phoenix, 11pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
San Diego	9	4	1	28	21	13
Washington	7	2	3	24	20	10
Utah Royals FC	7	2	3	24	18	10
Portland	7	3	3	24	20	14
Kansas City	8	5	0	24	21	17
North Carolina	6	3	3	21	20	14
Gotham FC	6	3	3	21	12	7
Orlando	5	6	2	17	18	19
Angel City	5	6	1	16	18	14
Denver Summit FC	4	5	3	15	17	16
Seattle	4	6	2	14	11	16
Houston	4	7	2	14	15	21
Bay FC	3	6	2	11	9	17
Boston Legacy FC	2	7	3	9	11	19
Chicago	3	9	0	9	5	24
Louisville	2	8	1	7	15	20

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.
Friday, July 3
Washington 2, Houston 1
Kansas City 3, Denver Summit FC 0
Angel City 2, Orlando 0
Saturday
North Carolina 3, Seattle 1
San Diego 2, **Gotham FC 0**
Sunday
Bay FC at Boston Legacy FC, 12pm
Utah Royals FC at Chicago, 5pm
Louisville at Portland, 7pm
Friday
Chicago at Boston Legacy FC, 8pm
Bay FC at Louisville, 8pm
Kansas City at Orlando, 8pm
Gotham FC at Utah Royals FC, 10pm
Saturday
Washington at North Carolina, 6:30pm
Angel City at San Diego, 8:45pm
Sunday, July 12
Portland at Seattle, 4pm
Houston at Denver Summit FC, 7pm
Wednesday, July 15
Boston Legacy FC at Orlando, 7pm
Washington at **Gotham FC, 8pm**

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Liberty	13	8	.619	—
Indiana	11	8	.579	1
Atlanta	12	9	.571	1
Washington	10	9	.526	2
Toronto	9	10	.474	3
Chicago	6	14	.300	6½
Connecticut	4	16	.200	8½

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
Minnesota	15	5	.750	—
Las Vegas	15	5	.750	—
Golden State	14	7	.667	1½
Dallas	12	8	.600	3
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	6
Portland	9	12	.429	6½
Phoenix	8	13	.381	7½
Seattle	5	17	.227	11

Saturday
Golden State 88, Atlanta 83
Portland 77, Seattle 72

Sunday
Dallas at Toronto, 3pm
Indiana at Las Vegas, 7pm

Monday
Golden State at Washington, 7:30pm
Connecticut at Minnesota, 8pm
Seattle at Los Angeles, 10pm

Tuesday
Dallas at **Liberty**, 8pm
Chicago at Phoenix, 10pm

The POST Line

MLB
Sunday
American League

Favorite	PTS	Underdog
YANKEES	$113-136	Twins
GUARDIANS	$129-156	White Sox
ASTROS	OFF	Rays
RANGERS	-108-112	Tigers
MARINERS	$119-143	Blue Jays
Red Sox	$129-156	ANGELS

National League

Favorite	PTS	Underdog
BRAVES	$102-122	**Mets**
NATIONALS	OFF	Pirates
CUBS	$123-149	Cardinals
Giants	$109-131	ROCKIES
Brewers	$102-122	D'BACKS
DODGERS	$179-219	Padres

Interleague

Favorite	PTS	Underdog
REDS	-108-112	Orioles
Phillies	$113-136	ROYALS
ATHLETICS	$104-126	Marlins

Home team in CAPS

CFL
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
TIGER-CATS	3.5 (57.5)	Blue Bombers

FIFA World Cup
Sunday- Round of 16

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Brazil	$120-310	Norway
**England	$140-200	Mexico

*MetLife Stadium, **Mexico City

Monday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Belgium	-150-170	**United States**
**Spain	$110-280	Portugal

*Seattle, **Arlington, TX

Tuesday

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
*Argentina	$275-800	Egypt
**Colombia	$120-240	Switzerland

*Atlanta, **Vancouver

WNBA
Sunday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
ACES	6.5 (183.5)	Fever
Wings	5.5 (181.5)	TEMPO

SPORTS SHORTS

MLB: Beers bigger in Texas

That was quite a big brew outside the home ballpark of the Rangers for America's 250th birthday. The team partnered with Budweiser in Arlington, Texas, to set a Guinness World Record for the largest-ever glass of beer. A 12-foot-tall, 600-gallon glass beer stein was filled in a plaza outside Globe Life Field before the game against Detroit. It took nearly two hours to fill the stein before the new record was certified by a Guinness adjudicator.

● Pittsburgh's **Paul Skenes**, Milwaukee's **Jacob Misiorowski** and Dodgers star **Shohei Ohtani** all could miss All-Star mound appearances because of starts next weekend. Meanwhile, first baseman **Vladimir Guerrero Jr**., among four All-Stars from the Blue Jays, said he will skip the July 14 game at Philadelphia's Citizens Bank Park to rest a bad back that has bothered him for much of the season.

● The Reds activated right-hander **Hunter Greene** from the IL in advance of his season debut against the Orioles. Greene, 26, has been on the injured list since the end of March when he had surgery to remove bone chips from his elbow.

NBA: Nets fall in Summer League

The Nets kicked off their seven-game summer league slate with a 79-76 loss to the Kings. **Egor Dëmin** led Brooklyn with 23 points and seven rebounds, while **Chaney Johnson** had 10 points and 10 rebounds, and 2026 second-round pick **Tyler Bilodeau** had nine points and six boards.

● Jazz guard **Darryn Peterson**, selected second overall in last month's draft, and Grizzlies forward **Cameron Boozer**, the No. 3 pick, both began summer league play with a bang. Peterson had 28 points on 11-for-21 shooting in the Jazz's 103-102 win over the Hawks, while Boozer finished with 15 points on 7-for-11 shooting in a 111-74 win over the Thunder.

GOLF: Glover shares John Deere lead

Lucas Glover chipped in for eagle early and made a birdie late, his only two sub-par holes Saturday in Silvis, Ill., for a 2-under 69 that was just enough for him to share the lead with **Lee Hodges** in the John Deere Classic.

Hodges had four birdies in a six-hole stretch on the back nine of the TPC Deere Run for a 67 to join Glover at 16-under 197 going into the final round. Nine players were within four shots of the lead.

● In Columbus, Ohio, **Stewart Cink** authored a 6-under-par 64 to rocket to the top of the U.S. Senior Open leaderboard with one round to go at Scioto Country Club, one stroke ahead of **Padraig Harrington**.

ETC.: Early Tour edge for Vingegaard

Jonas Vingegaard took an early lead in his quest for a third Tour de France title as he recorded the fastest time in Stage 1 — a 12.1-mile team time trial in Barcelona.

● In Joliet, Ill., **Denny Hamlin** has the pole position for the first NASCAR Cup Series race at Chicagoland Speedway in seven years with a lap time of 30.296 seconds at 178.241 mph in qualifying.

TOP PLAY

One Met is still A-0-Ks

By SEAN TREPPEDI

If you can stomach the Mets, Nolan McLean has at least been a beacon of hope for the inured faithful.

The 24-year-old rookie right-hander has showcased the frontline starter potential all had hoped for.

His last start was brilliant.

McLean overcame a six-earned-run clunker against the Cubs by delivering six scoreless innings in a 3-0 win over the Blue Jays. He fanned seven while displaying his full arsenal. He recorded a strikeout with his patented curveball, slider, sinker and fastball.

This success came from improved command and confidence in his off-speed pitches — particularly his sweeper, which complemented his sinker and fastball effectively. McLean walked just two.

He was knocked around for 13 earned runs over two starts in late May. Since then, he has posted a 2.65 ERA over his past six.

The Braves' historically hot start was followed by a June swoon that dropped them from third overall to 20th in wRC+. Their top three hitters — Matt Olson, Ozzie Albies and Michael Harris II — all sport negative run values against curveballs, per Statcast.

McLean's balanced pitch mix and elite spin rates have boosted him into the top 13 percent in strikeout rate.

With this blooming maturity and resilience, he has given the rudderless Mets a chance to win on any night. That can only make him a sound strikeout target against a division rival.

THE PLAY: Nolan McLean Over 5.5 strikeouts.

streppedi@nypost.com

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Twins	Ryan (R)	–	5-5	3.61	9-9	0-0	0.00	3-2	1-2	15.0	6.00
Yankees	Weathers (L)	(1:35pm)	3-6	4.08	7-9	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-1	14.0	2.57
Mets	McLean (R)	–	5-5	3.78	7-10	0-0	4.50	1-0	2-1	19.0	2.84
Braves	Pérez (L)	(12:30pm)	6-5	3.27	7-6	1-0	1.76	5-0	1-2	15.0	4.80
Orioles	Bradish (R)	–	5-8	3.77	8-9	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-1	19.2	1.83
Reds	Lodolo (L)	(1:05pm)	2-2	5.05	2-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-1	13.2	4.61
Phillies	Nola (R)	–	3-5	6.04	9-8	0-0	0.00	0-3	0-1	14.1	6.91
Royals	Avila (R)	(3:00pm)	3-3	5.40	5-2	0-0	0.00	0-0	2-0	14.2	3.68
Marlins	E. Pérez (R)	–	4-6	4.21	7-7	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-0	14.0	1.29
Athletics	Jump (L)	(4:30pm)	3-2	2.93	4-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	16.2	2.70
White Sox	Fedde (R)	–	3-6	4.41	5-4	0-0	2.25	0-0	2-0	13.0	4.85
Guardians	Bibee (R)	(2:00pm)	2-9	3.69	5-13	0-0	0.00	4-0	0-2	18.1	2.45
Tigers	Mize (R)	–	3-5	2.63	4-8	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	17.1	3.63
Rangers	Rocker (R)	(3:30pm)	2-6	3.83	6-8	0-1	22.50	1-1	0-1	14.0	5.14
Rays	Jax (R)	–	4-5	3.45	7-5	0-0	0.00	1-0	3-0	16.0	2.81
Astros	Lambert (R)	(3:30pm)	6-5	3.51	7-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.1	3.63
Blue Jays	Yesavage (R)	–	4-3	3.34	6-6	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-0	19.2	2.29
Mariners	Hancock (R)	(5:00pm)	5-4	3.47	8-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	0-2	15.0	7.20
Red Sox	Suarez (L)	–	4-3	2.94	8-8	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-0	18.2	1.93
Angels	Johnson (R)	(9:30pm)	1-3	7.40	1-3	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-2	16.0	3.38
Pirates	Chandler (R)	–	3-8	4.62	5-11	0-0	0.00	0-0	1-1	17.2	4.08
Nationals	Cavalli (R)	(1:00pm)	5-4	3.69	7-11	0-1	27.00	0-1	1-0	15.2	2.30
Cardinals	Liberatore (L)	–	4-5	5.34	11-6	1-0	0.00	2-1	1-2	12.0	9.00
Cubs	Assad (R)	(2:30pm)	6-1	4.53	5-1	0-0	0.00	1-2	3-0	16.2	2.70
Brewers	Sproat (R)	–	3-4	5.28	9-5	0-1	8.31	0-1	2-0	15.0	3.60
D'backs	Rodriguez (L)	(4:00pm)	7-2	2.21	13-4	0-0	3.86	0-3	2-0	20.2	0.87
Giants	Mahle (R)	–	1-8	5.67	4-9	0-0	0.00	2-1	0-2	15.0	4.20
Rockies	Gordon (R)	(4:00pm)	0-2	6.69	0-3	0-1	12.00	0-2	0-2	13.0	6.92
Padres	Sears (L)	–	1-1	6.97	1-1	0-0	0.00	0-1	2-1	16.0	5.62
Dodgers	Sheehan (R)	(7:20pm)	4-5	5.08	8-7	1-0	5.00	1-0	1-2	13.1	6.75

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Revenge is sweet. Cubs win!

Embarrassed. Humiliated. Mortified. No, not Post horse racing analyst Vic Cangialosi after going 0-for-11 on opening day at Saratoga. I'm talking about the Cubs, who lost 17-1 to the rival Cardinals on Friday.

Revenge is sweet. The Cubs' sometimes starter, sometimes reliever Javier Assad is 6-1. The Redbirds' Matthew Liberatore one-hit the Bravos in Hotlanta but gave up 11 runs on 15 hits over his previous seven innings. We will play $50 on Assad and the Cubbies.

-$

"I'm hungry, and it's a beautiful day. This is going to be a great Fourth of July." You got that right, Joey Chestnut. Logan Gilbert tossed a one-hitter over 7 1/3 innings. Randy Arozarena, Dominic Canzone and Cal Raleigh launched bombs that made Macy's fireworks jealous, and the Mariners buried the Blue Jays 11-0. This hot dog is down -161 pauliewalnuts.

stitches@nypost.com

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY July 5	MON July 6	TUE July 7	WED July 8	THU July 9
	Minnesota 1:35 NBCSN 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 6:40 Prime Video 660 AM 101.9 FM	Tampa Bay 1:10 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM
	Atlanta 12:30 NBC Peacock 880 AM	Atlanta 7:15 SNY 880 AM	Kansas City 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Kansas City 7:10 SNY 880 AM	Kansas City 7:10 SNY 880 AM
	NO GAME	NO GAME	Dallas 8:00 ESPN	NO GAME	NO GAME

Wednesday, July 22		Wednesday, July 22		Friday	
	FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		FIFA World Cup Break until July 22		Utah Royals FC 10:00 Victory+

Today's Sports on the Air

MLB BASEBALL		
12:30 p.m.	Mets at Braves	NBC, Peacock, 880 AM
1:35 p.m.	Twins at Yankees	NBCSN, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
5 p.m.	Blue Jays at Mariners	NBCSN, Peacock
7 p.m.	Padres at Dodgers	NBC, Peacock
9:30 p.m.	Red Sox at Angels	NBCSN, Peacock
MEN'S SOCCER: FIFA WORLD CUP		
4 p.m.	Round of 16: Brazil vs. Norway	Fox, Telemundo
8 p.m.	Round of 16: Mexico vs. England	Fox, Telemundo
NBA BASKETBALL		
3 p.m.	Summer League: Nets vs. Bucks	Gotham App, ESPN
4:30 p.m.	Summer League: Heat vs. Lakers	ESPN, Prime Video
5 p.m.	Summer League: Warriors Blue vs. Kings	Prime Video
7 p.m.	Summer League: Spurs vs. Warriors Gold	Prime Video
WNBA BASKETBALL		
7 p.m.	Fever at Aces	ESPN
TENNIS		
6 a.m.	ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, Round of 16	ESPN
Noon	ATP/WTA: Wimbledon, Round of 16	ABC
NWSL WOMEN'S SOCCER		
Noon	Bay FC at Boston Legacy	ESPN
GOLF		
7 a.m.	DP World Tour: BMW International Open, Final Round	Golf
1 p.m.	PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, Final Round	Golf
3 p.m.	PGA Tour: John Deere Classic, Final Round	CBS
3 p.m.	PGA Tour Champions: U.S. Senior Open Championship, Final Rd.	NBC
BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	BIG3: Week 3	CBS
MEN'S SOCCER		
1 p.m.	CPL: Forge at Supra du Quebec	FS2
6 p.m.	CPL: HFX Wanderers at Pacific FC	FS2
7 p.m.	USL League One: Boise Athletic Club at Westchester SC	MSG
CFL FOOTBALL		
7 p.m.	Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Hamilton Tiger-Cats	CBSSN
HOCKEY		
2 p.m.	3ICE 3-on-3 Hockey	MSG, NHLN
SOFTBALL		
1 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Cascade at Spark	ESPN2
8 p.m.	Athletes Unlimited: Volts at Bandits	MLBN
AUTO RACING		
9 a.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Warmup	FS1
9 a.m.	FIM Motocross World Championship: MX2	CBSSN
10 a.m.	FIM Motocross World Championship: MXGP	CBSSN
10 a.m.	Formula 1: British Grand Prix	Apple TV
10 a.m.	Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio - Race 2	FS1
12:30 p.m.	NTT IndyCar Series: Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio	FOX
6 p.m.	NASCAR Cup Series: eero 400, In-Season Challenge - Rd. 2	TNT
MEN'S LACROSSE		
2 p.m.	PLL All-Star Game: West vs. East	ESPN
WOMEN'S LACROSSE		
5:30 p.m.	WLL All-Star Game: West vs. East	ESPN2
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL		
Noon	NHSI: Semifinal	ESPNU
8:30 p.m.	NHSI: Championship	ESPNU
HORSE RACING		
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS1

ODDS & ENDS

FIFA WORLD CUP

Round of 16

Sunday

Brazil vs. Norway

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Brazil	-120
Draw	+270
Norway	+310
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-135
Under 2.5	+105

Mexico vs. England

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Mexico	+200
Draw	+210
England	+140
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	+138
Under 2.5	-175

Monday

Portugal vs. Spain

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
Portugal	+280
Draw	+260
Spain	-110
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-120
Under 2.5	-102

United States vs. Belgium

3-WAY MONEYLINE	ODDS
USA	+170
Draw	+230
Belgium	+150
TOTAL GOALS	**ODDS**
Over 2.5	-135
Under 2.5	+105
ANYTIME GOAL SCORER	**ODDS**
Romelu Lukaku (Belgium)	+170
Ricardo Pepi (USMNT)	+200
Christian Pulisic (USMNT)	+220
C. De Ketelaere (Belgium)	+260
Kevin De Bruyne (Belgium)	+270
Dodi Lukebakio (Belgium)	+310
Leandro Trossard (Belgium)	+310
Brenden Aaronson (USMNT)	+320
Jérémy Doku (Belgium)	+340
Malik Tillman (USMNT)	+370
Hans Vanaken (Belgium)	+390

NASCAR

Favorites to win eero 400

DRIVER	ODDS
Denny Hamlin	+275
Kyle Larson	+425
Tyler Reddick	+450
Christopher Bell	+900
Chase Briscoe	12/1
Ryan Blaney	14/1
Ty Gibbs	14/1
William Byron	14/1
Chase Elliott	14/1
Chris Buescher	14/1
Bubba Wallace	20/1
Brad Keselowski	20/1
Carson Hocevar	25/1

BET SMART

Junior gonna be Norway's daddy

Getty Images

ON THE ATTACK: In addition to both Brazil and Norway scoring, The Post's Mike Turay is wagering that Vinícius Júnior will either score or assist Sunday.

By MIKE TURAY

Brazil and Norway collide in a marquee match headlining Sunday's World Cup Round of 16 slate.

Carlo Ancelotti has made all the necessary adjustments and is just one victory away from leading Seleção to their third straight quarterfinal appearance. Vinícius Júnior continues to be a reliable attacking threat for Brazil, which has secured two clean sheets before this crucial match.

It took a late goal from substitute Gabriel Martinelli to complete Brazil's come-from-behind win over Japan in the Round of 32, after trailing 1-0 at halftime. Casemiro found the back of the net in the 56th minute to tie the score at 1-1, and the momentum suddenly shifted to the five-time World Cup winners.

Erling Haaland and Norway withstood a surge from Ivory Coast, with the Norwegian star's go-ahead boot in the 86th minute pushing Norway into the Round of 16.

Norway's prolific scorer standout now has five goals for the Vikings in this tournament so far.

Haaland will now clash with Brazilian defender Gabriel Magalhães in a Premier League rivalry now poised to take center stage at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey.

Oddsmakers have Brazil installed as -260 betting favorites to advance to the final eight and -125 on the three-way moneyline to win within 90 minutes. Norway enters at +250 to advance and as +360 moneyline dogs.

At this stage of the World Cup, the outcome can hinge on a single touch or a mistake from either side.

Brazil has been criticized throughout its run, yet Seleção somehow keeps advancing. Even when Raphinha went down with an injury against Haiti, Ancelotti game-planned perfectly to keep Vinícius Júnior at the forefront of their attack.

The result: 6.5 shots on goal per match, fourth-best among teams remaining in the tournament.

Whether it is Matheus Cunha or Bruno Guimarães alongside him, Vinícius Júnior has scored four times, and his overall presence around the box will almost certainly prompt Norway to send additional defenders to mark him.

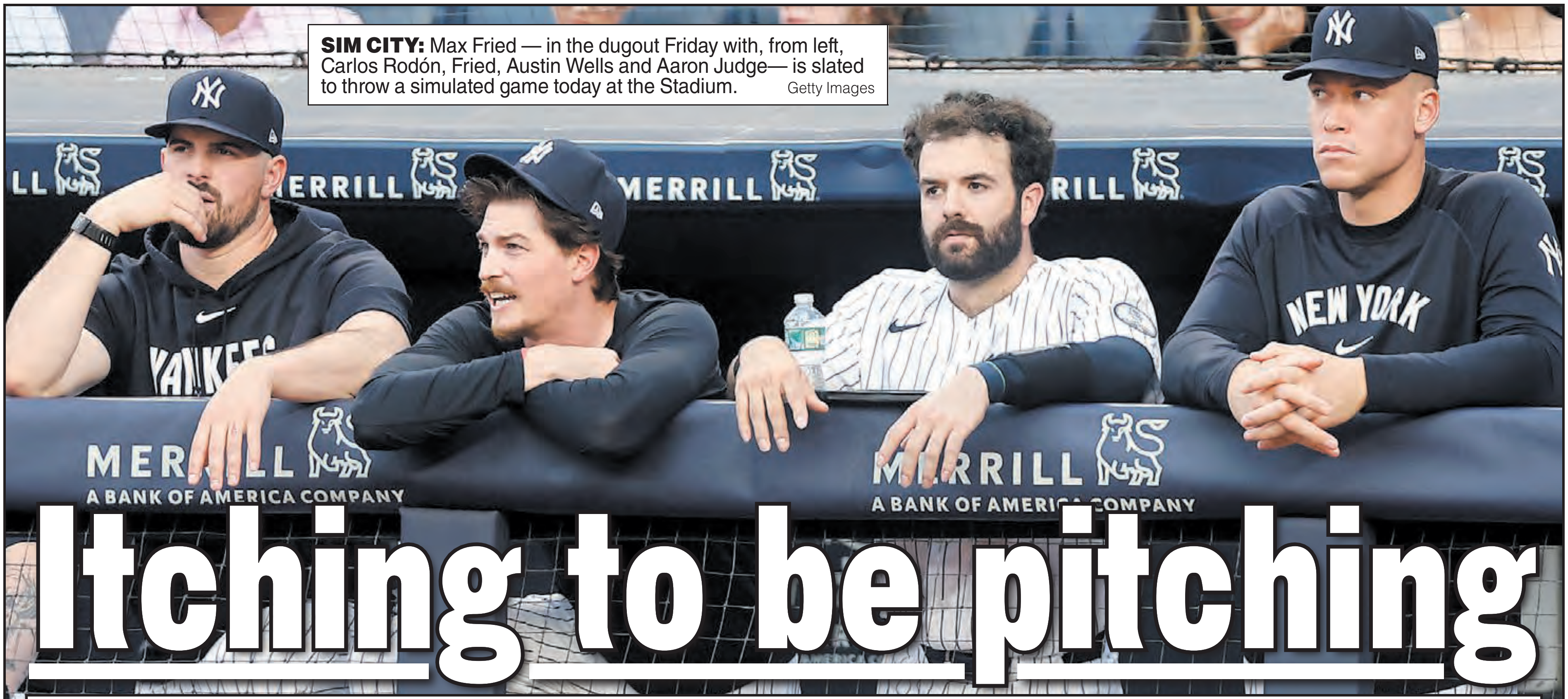
Haaland poses a significant challenge to the Brazilian defense, which has conceded only 0.5 goals on average during the tournament. He has dominated in his first Cup showing, while Martin Odegaard leads the Norwegian side with three assists.

Gabriel knows Haaland very well, and with the stakes even higher, this one-on-one duel will be high-level soccer at its finest. Seleção, though, has just enough to secure a narrow victory, and perhaps Neymar will receive some minutes on the field in light of Raphinha's injury.

Since both offenses are well-organized and led by star players, I expect both to score in what could be an exciting 90-minute game, plus extra time, as they play for a place in the final eight.

Additionally, expect Vinícius Júnior to break down a Norwegian team that previously struggled to deal with Amad Diallo and Ismaïla Sarr when they created space.

Recommendation: Both teams to score (-155, Caesars Sportsbook); Vinícius Júnior to score or assist (-145, FanDuel)



SIM CITY: Max Fried — in the dugout Friday with, from left, Carlos Rodón, Fried, Austin Wells and Aaron Judge— is slated to throw a simulated game today at the Stadium. Getty Images

Itching to be pitching

Fried set for next step in recovery

By DAN MARTIN

YANKEES NOTES

Max Fried is set to throw another simulated game Sunday at the Stadium in his comeback from a left elbow bone bruise that's sidelined him since mid-May.

It will be another step for the lefty who still figures to be about a month away from rejoining what's been a shaky Yankees rotation.

Fried and the Yankees remain encouraged by his progress, with Fried saying Saturday that he's made some mechanical adjustments that should prevent the injury from returning.

He said that after his previous live batting practice sessions he's felt "completely normal. I feel healthy. ... I would love to be able to snap my fingers and be back out there, but as a starting pitcher, it takes time to build up. I'll get back hopefully soon."

With Carlos Rodón now also out with left elbow inflammation, the Yankees are even more in need of Fried being back on the mound.

Fried is now at a stage where he's mostly just building up his pitch count.

After throwing 28 pitches over two innings in his previous sim game, he's expected to go about 35 over two innings Sunday.

If that goes well, a minor league rehab outing could be discussed and as Boone noted, the Yankees will have to decide how deep they need Fried to pitch into a game before welcoming him back to The Bronx.

"When do we take him?" Boone said. "Is it at 60 [or] 75, 80 pitches? Those will be conversations we have over the next couple weeks as he continues to build up. He looks and feels really good. He looks like Max Fried."

Boone indicated it would likely be "a few weeks" before Fried could realistically be back.

"It's one of those injuries you have to be really careful with," Fried said. "If you push it too fast, you risk turning it into some sort of break or fracture."

He added he'd "really felt off mechanically most of the year" and is now "more balanced [and] on time."

Fried will attempt to bring that into games whenever he does return, as the Yankees have been waiting all season for their full rotation to be healthy.

➤ With **Trent Grisham** and **Ryan McMahon** back from the IL, there was a question about how much **Anthony Volpe** would be in the lineup over **José Caballero**.

Volpe was in there instead of Caballero on Saturday, as Boone said, "Both guys deserve to play."

The manager also noted that there was "strong debate" about keeping **Spencer Jones** in the majors before he was optioned to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on Friday to open a spot for Saturday's spot starter, **Brendan Beck**.

Boone said Jones would benefit from playing regularly in the minors and they prefer the defensive versatility and right-handed bat of **Max Schuemann**, who homered and reached base four times Saturday.

Grisham was in the lineup at DH after Boone said he initially had planned on him getting a day off. Boone noted the Twins had originally planned to start a left-hander, but switched to righty **Zebby Matthews**. Grisham went 0-for-2 before being replaced by pinch hitter **Paul Goldschmidt** in the sixth.

Rehabbing Holmes in no rush to leave Amazin's

CLAY HOLMES

By MIKE PUMA

METS NOTES

ATLANTA — Clay Holmes wants his next major league start to be for the Mets.

As he rehabs a fractured right fibula, there is a good chance that start wouldn't occur until after the Aug. 3 trade deadline. As a proven starting pitcher, Holmes could be a commodity, but he told The Post that he isn't allowing himself to think he's about to parachute out of a difficult situation.

"You feel it in this room that there have been big expectations, and we haven't met them," Holmes said before the Mets' 14-3 loss to the Braves on Saturday night. "I feel it. I want to do as much as I can to help the team. I don't know what the future holds, but I don't feel like I just want to find some way out. Things are hard right now, and I want to be part of the solution."

Holmes, who can opt out of his contract after the season, has thrown from a mound twice in the past week. He expects to repeat the process in the next week and then potentially begin facing batters during the All-Star break.

The right-hander has pitched to a 2.39 ERA in nine starts for the Mets this season.

➤ **Nolan McLean** is the scheduled Mets starter Sunday. The right-hander is coming off a strong performance against the Blue Jays in which he fired six scoreless innings with seven strikeouts, two walks and five hits allowed. McLean pitched to a 2.79 ERA over his five June starts. It was a recovery from a shaky May, when he pitched to a 6.10 ERA over six starts.

➤ **Luke Weaver**'s scoreless streak stands at 24 innings over 22 games. Since May 1, he was the only major league reliever who had pitched 21 innings without allowing a run. During that stretch, he held opponents to a .122 batting average and 0.63 WHIP.

➤ **A.J. Minter**'s home run allowed Friday snapped the left-hander's streak of 25 appearances without allowing an earned run, which was the second longest in franchise history. **Mark Guthrie** holds the club record of 33 appearances without surrendering an earned run.

HANDY GARCIA

Nationals vet can bolster fantasy rosters

Jarad Wilk

Fantasy Insanity

NOT EVERY move you make during the season is going to be a potential league-winner. It doesn't have to be.

You just need to find players who fill a need and produce consistently.

Washington's Luis Garcia Jr. has largely flown under the radar this season despite stellar production — especially in June.

In his first 81 games, Garcia hit .280 with 16 homers, 59 RBIs, 39 runs, two stolen bases and a .847 OPS. His 16 home runs over his first 281 plate appearances already equal his total over 526 plate appearances in 2025, and is just two shy of his career-best 18 from 2024, when he had more than 528 plate appearances. He finished June with 11 homers, tied with Pete Crow-Armstrong for the second most in the majors.

Garcia drove in the most runs in the majors (27) last month and had at least one RBI in eight of his past nine games, and in 20 of his previous 33. He is on pace to finish with more than 100 RBIs.

The longest-tenured National finished June with the 21st best average in the NL (.306), the 22nd-lowest strikeout rate (14.3 percent) and the second-best OPS (1.249).

But, wait, there's more ...

According to Statcast, Garcia ranked in the top 10 percent of MLB in exit velocity (92.2 mph) and the top 7 percent in maximum exit velocity (114 mph), both career highs. His 47.1 hard-hit percentage is also the highest of his career and sat just outside the top 50.

The seven-year veteran, who has multi-position eligibility, entered the weekend with the 35th-most fantasy points in standard ESPN leagues — surpassing players such as Cardinals breakout star Jordan Walker, Orioles shortstop Gunnar Henderson and Kyle Tucker, the Dodgers' big offseason acquisition who was also taken more than 230 spots ahead of Garcia in fantasy drafts. Garcia'a .286 xBA shows there is some room to improve, and there is plenty of red on his Statcast page to support that.

Garcia is doing this while mostly batting second in the lineup, hitting .290 with 13 homers and .880 OPS in 57 games from the No. 2 hole. He also has a knack of coming through in clutch moments, hitting .319 with 37 RBIs with runner's in scoring position.

Is everything sunshine and roses with Garcia? Of course not.

Though Garcia had double-digit steals in each of the past two seasons, his below-average .310 on-base percentage, less than ideal plate discipline (his chase rate is among the league's worst) and 4.3 percent walk rate, which ranks in the bottom 5 percent, limit his ability to steal bases and score runs. That doesn't mean he is a bad hitter. He doesn't strike out a lot and he is making contact on 71.1 percent of the pitches he is chasing outside the strike zone.

Garcia, who remained available in 45 percent of ESPN leagues and 25 percent at Yahoo, is having a career year and still has another 80 games to add to his already impressive statline. He won't maintain his June pace, but he should provide solid power and valuable overall production.

A look at other underrated bats who could make a difference for your squad:

Not only is Chase DeLauter's .280 xBA slightly better than the .274 average he took into the weekend, but he ranked in the 91st percentile or better in whiff rate, chase rate and squared-up percentage. The Guardians rookie doesn't strike out much, and he carried an 11-game hit streak into Friday, during which he hit .378 with seven RBIs and a .871 OPS.

In his first 19 career games, Pittsburgh's Esmerlyn Valdez hit .316 with six homers, 15 RBIs, 12 runs and a 1.112 OPS. Most of that damage came over his past 10 games, when he had at least one hit in all but one of them while hitting .485 with four homers, 10 RBIs, 10 runs and a 1.557 OPS.

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Luis Garcia Jr.

Imagn Images

BIG HITS

Eduardo Rodriguez SP, Diamondbacks

Allowed more than three earned runs once in his past 12 starts while going 5-2 with a 1.95 ERA, .213 opponents' average and 1.12 WHIP.

Caleb Durbin 3B, Red Sox

Stole five bases in 25 games last month while hitting .326 six home runs, 13 RBIs, 16 runs and a .963 OPS.

Justin Wrobleski SP, Dodgers

Went 4-0 with a 2.39 ERA, 22.9 percent strikeout rate and .200 opponents' average in his past six starts. He walked four batters (0.96 per nine innings) in that span.

Dansby Swanson SS, Cubs

Drove in 29 RBIs in 13 games between June 17 and Wednesday while hitting .365 with nine homers, 16 runs and a 1.374 OPS in that span.

BIG WHIFFS

Salvador Perez C/1B, Royals

Went deep once in June, going 18-for-96 (.188) with five RBIs, 21 strikeouts, one walk, a .202 on-base percentage and .462 OPS.

Austin Riley 3B, Braves

Last home run came on May 20, and he was 24-for-120 (.200) with 44 strikeouts, seven RBIs and runs, and a .537 OPS in his next 35 games.

Noah Cameron SP, Royals

Issued eight free passes and allowed four home runs in his past four starts while going 1-2 with a 9.00 ERA, 2.22 WHIP, .376 opponents' average and a 12.6 percent strikeout rate.

Cody Bellinger OF, Yankees

Went 5-for-46 (.109) with no homers or RBIs, one run, two stolen bases, 13 strikeouts and a .357 OPS in 13 games before Friday.

CHECK SWINGS

- Rockies leadoff hitter **Jake McCarthy** hit .326 with three homers, 13 RBIs and runs, three stolen bases and a .915 OPS last month.
- In his first 15 games off the injured list, it has been more of the same ugliness for Mariners backstop **Cal Raleigh**. He hit .167 with one homer, six RBIs, 20 strikeouts and a .594 OPS during that stretch, and that was after hitting .161 with 57 strikeouts and a .560 OPS in his first 41 games this season.
- Marlins righty **Max Meyer** allowed two earned runs or less in each of his past six starts, going 4-1 with a 1.73 ERA, 1.13 WHIP, 25.5 percent strikeout rate, .222 opponents' average and an 11.4 percent swinging-strike rate.

TEAM NAME OF THE WEEK

She's Pavin a Baby!

Submitted by Lindsay LeDonne

Salvage bats off scrap heap

BY JULY, many fantasy baseball managers suffer from fatigue and impatience, leading them to cut ties with underperforming players too quickly. This creates a golden opportunity for savvy owners to capitalize on the timeless adage, "one man's trash is another man's treasure."

FANTASY ALARM

Howard Bender

Look no further than Guardians outfielder Chase DeLauter as the prime example of this phenomenon. Entering the season, DeLauter was heralded as one of the hottest rookies in baseball, flashing immense power and advanced plate discipline during his promotion. Nevertheless, his performance suddenly cratered, leading to a "mysterious" and painful slump that stretched throughout the month of May and into early June. As his batting average plummeted, frustrated fantasy managers cut bait, dropping him in numerous leagues.

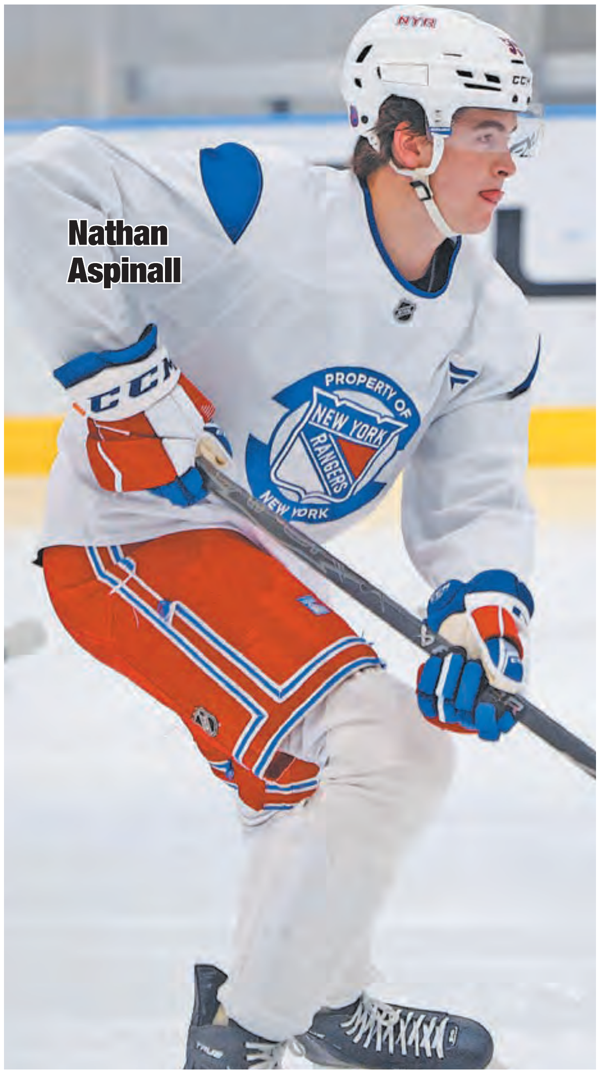
The mystery was finally solved when medical imaging revealed an undiagnosed rib fracture. The Guardians placed DeLauter on the IL, giving his body the time it desperately needed to heal. He has been back in the lineup for a week now, and the results speak for themselves.

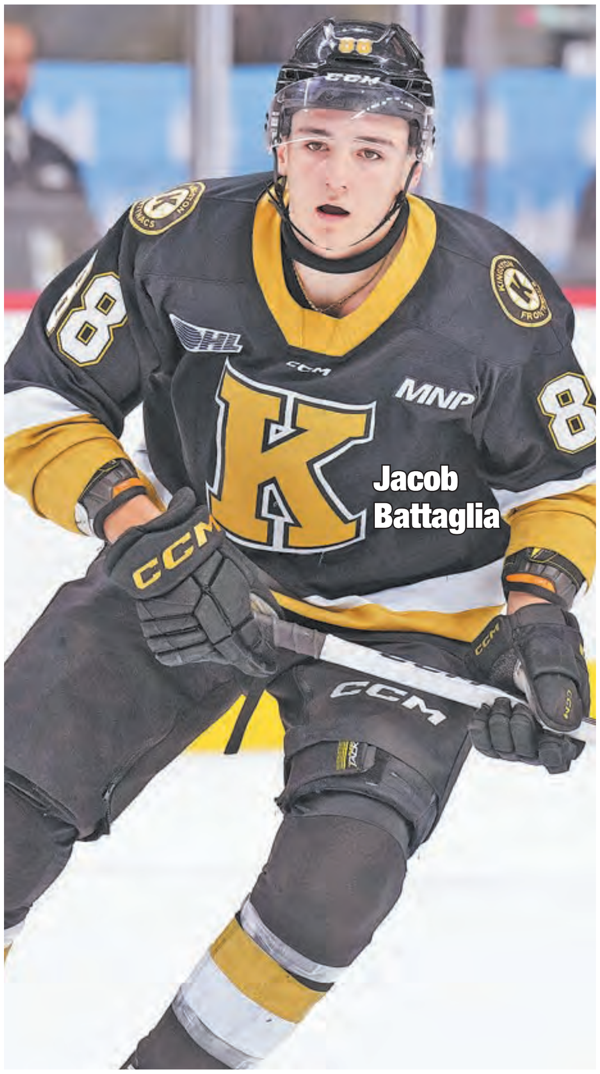
Another excellent target hiding in plain sight is Marlins outfielder Owen Caissie. He generated massive hype in the spring, earning a spot in the starting lineup. Unfortunately, the transition to regular-season pitching was rocky. Caissie struggled heavily all through April. Panic ensued,

Though his overall season-long numbers still look muted and do not jump off the page, his recent underlying metrics tell a different story. Caissie closed out the month of June on a tear, recording hits in eight of his last nine games. More importantly, the power has returned.

Do not let preseason biases or ugly May statistics blind you to current trends. Winning a fantasy championship requires adaptability. Rescue these elite talents from the trash heap.

Howard Bender is the head of content at FantasyAlarm.com. Follow him on X @rotobuzzguy and catch him on the award-winning "Fantasy Alarm Radio Show" on the SiriusXM fantasy sports channel weekdays from 6-8 p.m. Go to FantasyAlarm.com for all your fantasy baseball news and advice.





Darian Anderson

Robert Sabo (2); Getty Images

RULE OF THREE

OHL trio gets reps together in Rangers camp

By MOLLIE WALKER

When Chris Drury traded Brennan Othmann to the Flames for Jacob Battaglia in a prospect swap, the Rangers president and general manager revealed that Battaglia found out while on the OHL Flint Firebirds team bus sitting next to Nathan Aspinall.

Battaglia leaned over and showed Aspinall an Instagram post that stated he had been traded to New York.

As not only a Blueshirts fifth-round selection in the 2024 draft, but as his Firebirds linemate, Aspinall was elated.

"I gave him a big hug after that," Aspinall said with a smile after an on-ice prospect development camp session in Tarrytown this past week.

Added Battaglia: "I was pretty excited to see how far our journey is going to go together and just so happy for what the future could be."

Just under four months later, the last remaining linemate of Battaglia and Aspinall also joined the Rangers organization.

The Rangers drafted Darian Anderson with the No. 163 pick on the second day of the draft at the end of last month, officially obtaining the full trifecta that led the Firebirds in their most successful season in team history in 2025-26.

"I called my coach [Paul Flache] immediately," Aspinall told The Post of his reaction to hearing the Rangers draft Anderson. "Just saying how awesome it is, and then I sent him a text right away and said, 'Can't wait to see you in a couple days.' "

And there they all were on the MSG Training Center ice together this week, pushing to make good impressions in front of Rangers management and player development staff.

Having one another to lean on during this time has been a major benefit for the trio. It's more than just a couple of familiar faces, but teammates they've battled alongside during a grueling season and in the OHL playoffs. There's something special about working next to players who are on the exact same path as you.

"I think it's great for all of us," Aspinall said. "I mean, just seeing Darian, my linemate, who got drafted this year, has just made me smile so much. And then seeing them at camp, it just makes it so much better.

"Just being with the guys more and just having some more familiarity with them coming for their first camp, it's great."

Though Aspinall and Battaglia are expected to enjoy their first full pro seasons in Hartford, Anderson is committed to Clarkson University for the 2026-27 season. Aspinall described the 19-year-old Anderson as a "shifty" player who "works for everything he earns."

The only reason why the trio was able to work for the Firebirds was because of Battaglia's transition to center.

Having always been a wing, Battaglia was moved to the middle upon his arrival in Flint after he was traded from the Kingston Frontenacs.

"It was definitely a whole new world of hockey," Battaglia said. "I've never really had any experience playing down the middle, so I really enjoyed it because I felt like I could use my speed a little bit more and attack with more speed, rather than being flat-footed on the wall. I had a lot of fun playing center and I'm pretty excited to hopefully keep that up."

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Versatility on blue line a hallmark of Isles pick

By ANDREW CRANE

HE'S GOT THE POWER: Malte Gustafsson (right), the 18-year-old defenseman picked No. 13 overall in last month's NHL draft, has the potential to anchor an Islanders power-play unit someday. Dennis A. Clark

Malte Gustafsson hasn't allowed himself to think about it yet, to envision a future Islanders blue line with him and Matthew Schaefer — both first-round picks, both left-handed, both just 18 years old — in prominent roles.

"He's very, very grounded and humble when it comes to his journey," recalled Tom Jankovic, his head coach with the HV71 under-20 team and assistant coach with Sweden's under-18 national team.

When Schaefer introduced Gustafsson in Buffalo as the Islanders' selection at No. 13 in last month's NHL draft, there was something fitting about the duo overlapping. One obvious piece of their future welcomed another one who could possibly — and rapidly — play his way into it. Gustafsson, who said it'd be amazing to skate with Schaefer, rose quickly through the ranks in Sweden as an indispensable defenseman and plans to play for HV71 again next season.

After that, though, the Islanders might have a decision to make with the 6-foot-4, 230-pounder who "came as advertised" to development camp last week, Islanders head coach Pete DeBoer said.

"I think he will be a top Swedish defenseman in the NHL someday," Jankovic told The Post. "If it's when he's 24 or when he's 28, I don't know, but I think he will be there because he has all the tools. He has the right mindset."

There's no rush, either. Gustafsson planned to improve his offensive game and add muscle next season in the Swedish Hockey League. Niklas Eriksson, his HV71 head coach who took over near the end of last season, said that he can use the larger rinks in Sweden to prepare for the smaller ones in North America. It'll force Gustafsson to simplify his game and to make first passes quickly, something on which he'll get to work while likely logging 20-plus minutes a game and filling roles on both the power play and penalty kill.

Jankovic thought Gustafsson, a self-described "annoying" defenseman, would get picked earlier in the draft. He can skate alongside both defensive and offensive defensemen, seamlessly complementing both and able to pick up either role when needed. He constructed a two-way game where size, reach and an ability to carry the puck became his defining traits, and his movement near the blue line and passing ability could make him an option to quarterback a power-play unit in the NHL — perhaps the Islanders' second one behind Schaefer, Jankovic said.

"He has so many tools when it comes to what he can do," Jankovic said, "so I think that's his biggest strength, and as a coach, you want that on the ice."

Even before the draft, Gustafsson appeared in plenty of games with stakes attached. He collected 12 points in 19 games with the under-20 team last season and added another three points in 27 regular-season games in the SHL. He helped Sweden earn a gold medal at the U18 World Championship, skating over 28 minutes against Canada in the quarterfinals, over 29 against Czechia in the semifinals and another 26:39 against Slovakia in the gold-medal game.

Gustafsson helped HV71's men's team avoid relegation in the SHL, too, by contributing to their sweep in a best-of-seven series between the 13th- and 14th-place teams — with massive financial ramifications at stake if HV71 lost. He quarterbacked the second power-play unit and impressed general manager Johan Hult with how he handled the pressure of those games.

"How I use my size and length to shut down players, play physical, really being annoying on the ice, showing that I'm there," Gustafsson told The Post after the Islanders' development camp scrimmage last week, "I think that's the biggest part of my game."

And if Gustafsson adds strength in his legs to become more explosive, Hult said, he'll "be even more annoying, that's for sure." Hult found it difficult to describe a ceiling for him because, in his eyes, "the ceiling is not set." Gustafsson could represent Sweden in the Olympics. He could live up to Jankovic's prediction as one of the best Swedish defensemen in the NHL. He could make the five other teams who took other defensemen ahead of the Islanders in the first round look foolish.

That would all unfold years in the future. That takes more than an initial introduction at development camp to actually achieve. This — the draft, the HV71 games, the final SHL season before taking the leap to what's next — has been just the start for Gustafsson.

"I think the sky's the limit for this kid," Jankovic said.

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Swiatek stunned in historic win for Eala

By KEN MAGUIRE

Iga Swiatek's title defense at Wimbledon ended Saturday in a 7-6 (9), 6-2 third-round loss to 21-year-old Alexandra Eala, who continues to make history for the Philippines.

Eala is the first Filipino player, male or female, to reach the fourth round of a Grand Slam singles tournament on a day of upsets in the women's draw in London.

The left-handed Eala dropped to her knees and rolled onto her back on Centre Court after hitting a forehand winner on her third match point.

"It's incredible to have my countrymen cheering me on and knowing that we're all in this together," she said in an on-court interview as she looked around at the Philippines flags.

"This goes out to them, this goes out to my family, this goes out to all the little girls with ruffled socks and chubby cheeks. It means the world," said the 29th-seeded Eala, who saved two set points in the first-set tiebreaker.

She next faces 13th-seeded Jasmine Paolini for a spot in the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

➤ Shortly before Swiatek's exit, 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina was upset in the third round by Elise Mertens 7-6 (4), 6-1.

At No. 2, Rybakina is the highest seed on the women's side to be eliminated. Her loss ensures that Aryna Sabalenka — who faces Naomi Osaka in the fourth round on Sunday — will keep her No. 1 ranking after the tournament.

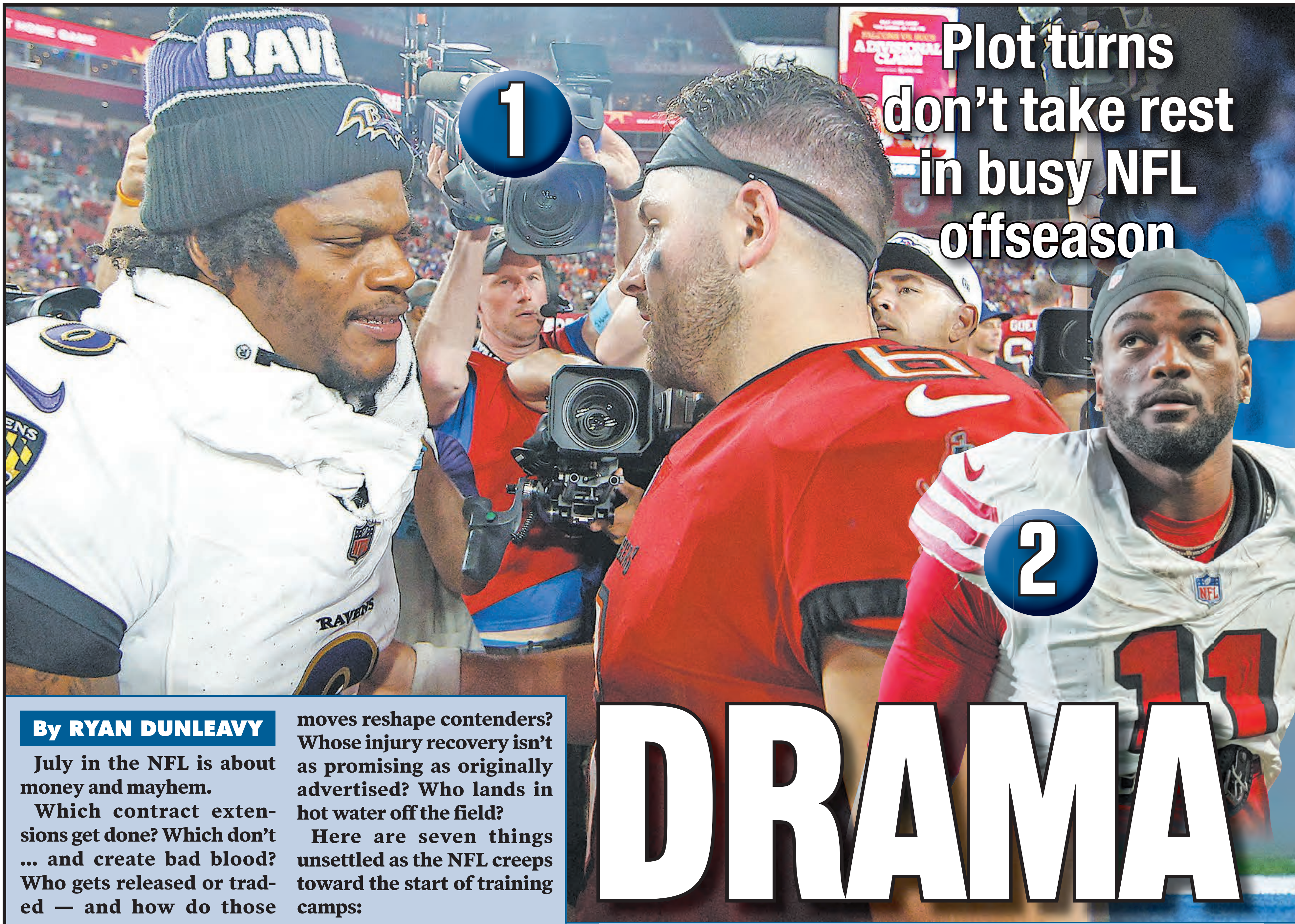
Belgium's Mertens, the No. 25 seed at Wimbledon, will next face 21st-seeded Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic.

➤ French Open champion Alexander Zverev, the No. 2 seed, got past American Marcos Giron 6-2, 7-6 (4), 6-4 to set up a fourth-round match against 13th-seeded Jiri Lehecka.

Ninth-seeded Flavio Cobolli — the runner-up at Roland Garros — overcame a slow start against Karen Khachanov to win 0-6, 7-6 (4), 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-2 and will face No. 5 seed Alex de Minaur in the fourth round.

➤ Serena Williams withdrew from her doubles match with sister Venus due to a right knee injury. The 44-year-old Serena was injured during her singles return earlier this week.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion said in an Instagram post that she was "heartbroken to have to withdraw from doubles." — *AP*



Plot turns don't take rest in busy NFL offseason

DRAMA

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

July in the NFL is about money and mayhem.

Which contract extensions get done? Which don't … and create bad blood? Who gets released or traded — and how do those moves reshape contenders? Whose injury recovery isn't as promising as originally advertised? Who lands in hot water off the field?

Here are seven things unsettled as the NFL creeps toward the start of training camps:

1. WILL LAMAR JACKSON, BAKER MAYFIELD GET NEW CONTRACTS?

Jackson's contract negotiations are historically unpredictable.

The two-time MVP is signed through 2027, and Ravens owner Steve Bisciotti is committed to extending him, though it seemed last season that Jackson and the team weren't always on the same page.

Enter a new coaching staff.

Patrick Mahomes' new contract pays him a top-of-market $64 million average annual value. Will the Ravens go there for Jackson?

Mayfield set a deadline for the Buccaneers: New deal by the start of training camp or play out the season. He has outperformed his rank as the No. 16-highest paid quarterback ($33.3 million AAV) over the past two seasons and wants to find a "middle ground," though reports say the sides remain far apart.

2. IS BRANDON AIYUK GOING TO PLAY ANYWHERE THIS SEASON?

Aiyuk's four-year, $120 million extension with the 49ers is in the conversation for worst-ever contract considering head coach Kyle Shanahan intervened to stop a September 2024 trade to the Steelers because the receiver was coming off a 1,342-yard season. Since then, Aiyuk has played seven games due to a combination of injury and a bitter feud that included the 49ers voiding his guaranteed money.

And yet the more he uses unhinged social-media rants to try to talk his way out of town — and to the Commanders and with former Arizona State teammate Jayden Daniels — the more the 49ers seem to dig their heels in on not releasing him. And the fewer suitors seem eager to add a potential locker-room cancer.

"He's not doing himself any favors," one NFL source told The Post.

3. ARE JAHMYR GIBBS AND BIJAN ROBINSON GOING TO RESET RB MARKET?

The 2024 NFL leader in touchdowns from scrimmage (Lions' Gibbs, 20) and 2025 leader in yards from scrimmage (Falcons' Robinson, 2,298) are both due extensions.

They waited for the Jets' Breece Hall (three years, $43.5 million) and Dolphins' De'Von Achane (four years, $64 million) to get paid this offseason.

Both Gibbs — who is now in the workhorse role for the first time — and Robinson should surpass the Eagles' Saquon Barkley's $20.6 million AAV. Are they just waiting on each other?

"Whoever goes second," a second source said, "will be the new highest-paid back."

The Falcons already spent to extend tight end Kyle Pitts (three years, $54 million) and receiver Drake London (four years, $141 million).

If either contract doesn't get done before training camp, could a surprise hold-in be in store?

4. ARE THE CARDINALS GOING TO KEEP THEIR STARS OR EMBRACE THE TANK?

Speaking of hold-ins, the Cardinals are playing with fire at the start of head coach Mike LaFleur's tenure.

Seeking a raise commensurate with starting quarterbacks, journeyman Jacoby Brissett didn't practice in minicamp. Does he have leverage, or are the Cardinals ready to roll with Gardner Minshew and rookie Carson Beck considering Brissett was 1-11 as a fill-in starter last season?

Pass-rusher Josh Sweat delivered 12 sacks on the first year of a four-year, $76 million contract, but indications are that he wants to be traded, eyeing a reunion with Packers defensive coordinator Jonathan Gannon.

Is former starter James Conner going to be traded to a team light on running backs? He took a pay cut to stick after the additions of Tyler Allgeier and Jeremiyah Love.

Getty Images (5)

KINGS

5. WHERE WILL THE TOP WIN-NOW FREE AGENTS SIGN?

Stefon Diggs, 32, wears out his welcome fast (three teams in the past three seasons), but his production for the Patriots was undeniable (85 catches for 1,013 yards).

Deebo Samuel, 30, shook off his injury-prone label to contribute 72 catches for 727 yards to the 2025 Commanders.

It would be interesting if they essentially traded places, but don't count out the Vikings and Chiefs in the receiver market.

Left tackle Taylor Decker, 32, might have miscalculated his demand by asking for his release from the Lions. He could be a stopgap for the Cowboys or Steelers — or do the all-in Rams act fearing that Alaric Jackson could be subject to league discipline for his arrest (no felony charge) on suspicion of domestic battery?

Will the 49ers sign Joey Bosa, 30, to pair him on the defensive line with his brother? Retirement can't be ruled out.

6. WILL ALVIN KAMARA BE TRADED OR RELEASED?

The Saints haven't approached him about a pay cut to lessen his $10.5M cap charge, so the fan favorite is in no hurry to leave.

But it could be a win-win to let Kamara, 30, chase a Super Bowl ring elsewhere and let the Saints start fresh with free-agent signing Travis Etienne and three young backups.

7. WILL MAHOMES, BO NIX AND DANIEL JONES BE READY FOR TRAINING CAMP?

Keep an eye on social media, where injured players often post workout videos to create buzz about their recovery. The story is the same for QBs of three contenders coming off injuries: The Chiefs' Mahomes (torn ACL), Broncos' Nix (fractured ankle) and Colts' Jones (torn Achilles) all participated in 7-on-7 during minicamp and are expected to be ready for camp.

No need to be pessimistic now, but expectations often change when it's time for 11-on-11.

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MLB push for cap shifts into new gear in labor battle vs. union

By DYLAN SVOBODA

Major League Baseball's social media pages are usually where fans go for moonshot homers, milestone chases and highlight-reel catches.

Last week, the league used them for something a little less celebratory: making its case in the early days of a brewing labor fight with the players union.

As collective bargaining talks heat up ahead of the current CBA's expiration on Dec. 1, MLB has begun pushing messages about its salary-cap and salary-floor proposal through its official fan-facing accounts — the same feeds typically used to showcase the sport's best moments and star players.

On Facebook, X and Instagram, MLB framed the league's massive payroll disparity as the biggest issue baseball fans want fixed, arguing in a lengthy post that too many fans begin seasons "without hope of their team competing for a World Series title."

The messaging pointed to the league's proposed cap-and-floor system as a solution that would "level the playing field," with the Dodgers and Mets approaching $400 million payrolls while clubs such as the Guardians and Marlins sit below $100 million.

The argument was familiar and expected, but the delivery was different. The league was not merely issuing a press release or leaking its position through reporters. It was putting its labor case directly in front of fans on its social platforms.

Public jockeying has gone both ways. The MLBPA also has taken its case directly to fans in recent months, releasing exhaustive details of its own CBA proposal and arguing that the league's cap plan would suppress player salaries. But MLB's use of its main league accounts stands out because those platforms are designed less for labor messaging than for marketing the game itself.

MLB spokesperson Glen Caplin told The Post the league has "a responsibility to communicate directly with fans through every available channel."

"A salary cap and salary floor, as used by every other major U.S. professional sports league, would create a more level playing field and give every club a fair chance to compete," Caplin said.

The MLBPA pushed back strongly on the league's messaging.

"With the All-Star Game approaching, and what should be a celebration of our game, MLB seems to be spending most of its efforts on a political ad-style campaign trying to mislead fans into thinking that the game they love is broken to justify a system that would put more money in the owners' pockets," interim MLBPA executive director Bruce Meyer said in a statement to The Post.

Labor experts said MLB's social media push marks a meaningful shift in the league's approach to labor talks.

"This approach is unusual but probably inevitable, given how people consume information," said Michael LeRoy, a labor and employment relations professor at the University of Illinois. "Commissioner [Rob] Manfred is likely forging new ground here."

LeRoy said the tactic is "night-and-day different" from a commissioner's letter or formal bargaining statement, adding that unions are likely to view such messaging as "a ploy" and an indication of "bargaining through tweets and social media posts."

Forbes contributor Maury Brown, who covers the business of baseball, also noted the distinction between the league using its main social media channels and more traditional avenues.

"If you thought MLB might pull back some in order to prevent a protracted lockout, here they are using the league's social media channel — not their Communications account — to push the cap system and concessions they accepted to make it happen," Brown wrote on X. "This has never happened with any prior labor negotiations in the social media age."

MLB has appealed directly to fans during labor fights before, including when Manfred issued a letter after CBA talks dragged into March in 2022. But the use of everyday league social feeds during active bargaining represents a different, more immediate kind of public pressure campaign, experts said.

Eugene Freedman, a union-side labor lawyer, said MLB's approach also stands out because of the league's complicated history of publicly framing labor disputes involving its own players.

"I think MLB is different than many of the other sports in how it negatively portrays its players — its product — both during and outside CBA negotiations," Freedman told The Post. "The NBA especially has for decades promoted its most prominent players as the game itself."

That makes MLB's use of its fan-facing accounts especially notable, experts said, because those platforms are built around the players whose compensation and working conditions are at the center of the dispute.

For MLB, that means a labor message about payroll disparity can appear in the same space as a walk-off home run or a tribute to one of the sport's biggest stars.

As MLB and the players' union move toward another high-stakes CBA fight, the league's social media strategy offers an early glimpse at how public — and how direct — this round could become.

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EXPECTING MO'

Diawara has a chance to prove himself to Knicks this summer

By ZACH BRAZILLER

The Knicks told us how they felt about Mohamed Diawara by locking him up to an extension before the restricted free agent could test the open market.

Leon Rose and Co. are obviously very high on the 6-foot-9 wing, after a better-than-expected rookie year in which the 51st overall pick in the 2025 draft appeared in 69 games and made seven starts. The front office and Diawara agreed to a multiyear deal worth over $10 million, according to The Post's Stefan Bondy. It is a hefty raise after Diawara earned $1.27 million last season, the lowest on the team.

Next up for Diawara is summer league in Las Vegas, beginning next Friday. He is the main attraction on a roster that also includes second-round pick (47th overall) Tyler Nickel out of Vanderbilt and 2024 first-round pick Pacôme Dadiet.

The best thing that can be said about a non-rookie in summer league is that he doesn't belong there. The Knicks would obviously like that to be the case with Diawara. This is an opportunity for him to prove himself after falling out of coach Mike Brown's playoff rotation. He will likely be featured.

The Frenchman had a strong first season, averaging 3.6 points, 1.4 rebounds and shooting 36.9 percent from 3-point range in 9.2 minutes. His offense surprised the Knicks. He was projected as a potential elite defender due to his impressive length (7-foot-4 wingspan) and athleticism.

Diawara enjoyed a breakout performance in a Dec. 29 win against the Pelicans in which he made four 3-pointers and scored 18 points, and broke into the regular-season rotation in December.

"Mo is not afraid," Brown said then. "He's the most confident young man I've been around. He's got a chance to be really good."

The Post takes a look at other things to watch for the Knicks summer league team:

Dadiet a potential trade chip

The clock could be ticking on the 6-foot-9 Dadiet. Diawara appears to have passed him. In two years, Dadiet has played in only 47 games as a Knick. Over the next few weeks he has a chance to impress. The better he performs, the better for the Knicks. Dadiet could be a trade chip, with the team looking to avoid the second apron, and with roughly $6.5 million to spare. He is owed $2.98 million next season. Dadiet doesn't turn 21 until July 27, is relatively inexpensive and could interest another franchise. Moving him would free Rose up to add another center of significance to pair with Andre Drummond as Karl-Anthony Towns' backup after Mitchell Robinson was lost to the Celtics in free agency.

Familiar name

Former St. John's guard Oziyah Sellers agreed to a summer league deal with the Knicks and should get the chance to potentially earn a training camp invite — either from them or someone else if he performs well in Sin City. The 6-foot-5 Sellers helped the Johnnies repeat as Big East regular-season and postseason champions and reach the Sweet 16 for the first time since 1999. He's a lights-out 3-point shooter — Sellers made 37.8 percent of his attempts from distance in four seasons in college — and defended better than expected in his one season in Queens. For St. John's last winter, Sellers averaged 10.3 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.6 assists.

Others to watch

Nickel is the lone Knicks draft pick on the team — fellow second-rounder Jack Kayil of Germany isn't on the roster. The 6-foot-8 Nickel is a big-time shotmaker who averaged 13.5 points and shot 40 percent from 3 last year on 7.6 attempts for Vanderbilt. There is always room for shooters with size.

An intriguing name is former Michigan State guard Jaden Akins. Akins was a G-League All-Star last season while playing for the Motor City Cruise — the Pistons affiliate — averaging 14.7 points, 4.8 assists and shooting just under 36 percent from 3. He went undrafted in 2025 and signed an Exhibit 10 contract with the Pistons.

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NEXT STEP: After being a pleasant surprise for the Knicks during the regular season, Mohamed Diawara is expected to be featured in the offense during summer league play for the Knicks. Jason Szenes

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Drummond: I'll bring veteran edge to NY's title defense

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Andre Drummond is excited to join the team he grew up rooting for and hopefully help it repeat as champions.

The Mount Vernon, N.Y., native agreed to come to the Knicks on Friday, coming aboard on a one-year, $3.9 million deal to serve as Karl-Anthony Towns' backup.

"[Losing] Mitchell Robinson was a huge loss for them," Drummond told media personality Mika Ortiz on X in his first public comments since the contract was finalized. "I bring in a similar talent, similar energy, but I'm a veteran, I've been around for a long time. I know what it takes to win. Excited to be in a new role in a new city and going back to a place I'm familiar with."

The 6-foot-11 Drummond spent last season with the 76ers, averaging 6.4 points, 8.4 rebounds and 0.8 blocks in 65 games. He also shot 35.6 percent from 3-point range, a new wrinkle to his game.

The Knicks were in search of a center after losing Robinson in free agency to the Celtics.

"I'm definitely excited to be a part of something that's bigger than me," Drummond said.

Asked what pushes him, the 32-year-old Drummond replied: "Everything. I'm just a highly motivated person. When I put my mind to something, there's nothing that I can't do."

Ewing joining Wizards

Patrick Ewing is leaving the Knicks to join the Wizards as an assistant coach and work under Brian Keefe, ESPN reported Saturday night. Ewing had been in an ambassador role with the Knicks.

Washington has an interesting roster, including No. 1 overall draft pick AJ Dybantsa and veterans Anthony Davis and Trae Young. Ewing has previously worked as an NBA assistant coach with the Wizards, Magic, Hornets and Rockets. He also was the head coach at Georgetown, with his time there coming to an end in 2023.

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HOMECOMING: Andre Drummond (right) is excited to join the team he grew up rooting for. Charles Wenzelberg

Phil Mushnick

EQUAL TIME

ORDER IN THE COURT

USA Today Sports

OVERRULED: Transgender Lia Thomas (left) competed against Riley Gaines and other biological females in 2022 NCAA events.

Supreme sporting justice prevails, despite dissenters

I KNOW you have a lot on your paper plates this holiday weekend. There's the Taylor Swift wedding and the Fourth of July celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary — a celebration of freedom that Democrats have dismissed as a celebration of Donald Trump in place of George Washington, a late scratch.

Still, I need your immediate help I need to relocate to a Sanctuary City, one that provides sanctuary to those who no longer can take it, a city that provides peaceful succor to the sane and reasonably intelligent.

I think I qualify, as I pay my taxes, don't litter and haven't murdered anyone in almost a week. Oh, and I recycle!

This past week was another doozie, the kind that makes you wonder if common sense has died or is just taking this century off.

Let's start with the U.S. Supreme Court, where three of its nine judges voted against fair and safe play in sports. The three would allow — continue to allow — biological men to compete in sports as women, no matter the here-and-now and continuing immediate and painfully real safety issues.

In addition, the three Justices voted to sustain the injustice of far larger and far stronger males who last month competed against males as Alex, to now compete against females as Alice.

But why even bother to change your first name to distinguish one's self as a female when born-and-raised males can choose to compete as females, to continue to blow away natural female opponents in not particularly funny laughers?

One is left to surmise that the three Justices who voted to sustain hideously unbalanced playing fields — Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson — would gladly suffer the sight of the young females in their lives, after devotion to training to achieve their best, be destroyed, figuratively and physically, by large, powerful and muscular females-come-lately.

They'd stand to applaud the winners?

And what of the young females in their lives who are denied the earned right to compete as they've been supplanted by biological males? What say, you three? Those girls left out and/or left home can go to hell? Join the Sewing Club? Those three female Justices are pro-sexism?

Yet, an issue so devoid of common, conspicuous sense that it should have never been an issue, last week needed a 6-3 vote by our Supreme Court to make sense.

And that vote was explained as political as the conservative appointees, rather than the fair-minded represented the majority vote. As a former Democrat in deep, infuriated and ashamed exile — I've daughters who competed in high school sports and now two granddaughters participating in entry-level organized sports with and against other daughters — I feel the immediate need to find a Sanctuary City, or at least a neighborhood that pretends to practice practicality.

➤ Last week was also another mind-bender as it embraced two 40-something self-entitled and crude spoiled brats, LeBron James and Serena Williams.

While the media and enriching advertisers continue to portray both as nationally beloved sportspersons, the public, best as I can tell, can't stand either. No matter how hard ESPN portrays them as King and Queen of their sports, with sainthood awaiting as per the next ESPYs pandering showcase.

While Williams, 44, a career bad winner and worse loser, took the place of a more worthy and deserving player in her return to play Wimbledon singles, she was relatively easy pickings for 20-year-old Australian Maya Joint, who appeared undersized, undernourished and far less than powerful.

Still, ESPN's Chris Fowler praised Williams' determination while awaiting and rooting throughout her third-set comeback that never arrived.

For crying out loud, both ESPN and wire service reports ignored the impossible to ignore: Williams didn't even bother trying to reach returns hit deep to her forehand, none of which was a bullet or a surprise.

And of course, she remained in her self-entitled nasty nature, refusing to appear in the post-match news conference, where, who knows, she might have even saluted the winner — a formerly unknown who had paid homage to her for the honor to face, let alone defeat, a legend.

But give Williams this: She didn't explode at a tiny lineswoman as she did during the U.S. Open, threatening her with, " I swear to God I'm [expletive] going to take this [expletive] ball and shove it down your [expletive] throat!" Perhaps she was too tired to exhibit such class and charm.

James, 41, no longer a Laker — he's apparently running out on Bronny, who wasted an NBA roster spot as per his father's misplaced and misguided regal demand — but where he now plays has become a major issue that few outside of ESPN care about, beyond the slave-wage factory grunts who stitch his wildly overpriced Nikes in communist China, the despotic dictatorship to which he has pledged his financial allegiance.

Sanctuary City, one that welcomes right-minded sports fans, advertisers with a conscience and a non-pandering media that at least tries to report the truth ... just point me in the right direction. I'll be a proud colonizer!

Call it as the guy in the truck sees it

MICHAEL Kay, who would parrot his own obituary if it were handed him on an index card or spoken into his ear from the truck, Wednesday provided us with this gem to ponder:

Will Warren, removed with one out in the sixth, "Threw 25 percent changeups — the most in his career."

Keep that in mind in case it shows up on a test.

The other NYC play-by-play man, **Gary Cohen**, applied his infinite, knows-it-all wisdom to invent a new pitch. After a righty threw high and inside to a lefty batter, he identified the pitch as "a back-door sweeper." Huh?

For decades Cohen was heard and enjoyed as an easy-on-the nerves companion. Now he's compelled to apply his dubious last-word wisdom to every pitch. He never before identified curve balls and changeups down and away as anything — if he even bothered to emphasize the unneeded. Suddenly, like a kid with a new toy, they're all sweepers.

Hate on Cait' greatly misplaced

A day doesn't pass without a reader asking me to explain the verbal and physical hatred for **Caitlin Clark**. Other than the fact that she's white, straight and so popular as to add thousands of dollars in salary, TV money and charter-flight comfort to WNBA players, what's not to hate?

➤ As long as NBC has exclusive dibs on **Roger Clemens** as an MLB analyst — the latest steroid-era star to be rewarded by TV execs — why not ask him why he had former Yankees strength coach **Brain McNamee** make house calls, during which, as McNamee testified under oath and before Congress, he injected Clemens 12 times with steroids.

Clemens, also under oath, has insisted that McNamee injected him in the rear end with lidocaine, a topical pain-masker that offers only temporary relief.

So as long as NBC has Clemens in the house, why not ask him why he chose to pitch with a numb fanny?

➤ The Yeshiva rowing team meets to discuss its 0-12 start. "Why not do what the Princeton team does; it's 12-0. They have eight guys row and only one guy holler."

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ESTADIO
CIUDAD DE MÉXICO

TOUGH CROWD: Harry Kane and England's World Cup club faces Mexico on Sunday in the Round of 16 and will also have to deal with a horde of home fans in Mexico City.

Shutterstock (2)

BLOODY HELL!

Raucous crowd awaits England in sky-high clash with host Mexico

Post wire report

England must confront a fanatical home crowd and the weight of World Cup history when they enter the lion's den of Mexico's Azteca Stadium for one of the highlights of the tournament Sunday.

A place in the quarterfinals is at stake as the confident co-hosts eye their shot at glory against the Three Lions, who have so far failed to live up to their billing as one of the pre-tournament favorites.

Harry Kane rescued England from what would have been one of their worst ever World Cup defeats to edge past Congo in the Round of 32, the captain scoring twice in the final 15 minutes in Atlanta to secure a nervy 2-1 win and keep the dream of ending a 60-year wait to win a major tournament alive.

Mexico, by contrast, are flying. El Tri have won all four games on home soil, without even conceding a goal.

A 2-0 victory over Ecuador secured their first knockout win at the World Cup for 40 years, and more history beckons if England can be slayed in front of an expectant home crowd.

Mexico has reached the World Cup quarterfinals twice, both times when they previously hosted the tournament in 1970 and 1986, but have never progressed beyond the final eight.

Sunday

MEXICO vs. ENGLAND

Round of 16
Mexico City
8 p.m.
Fox

All matches from the quarterfinals on will be played in the USA, and Mexico is desperate to make the most of its final game with home advantage.

England faces not only a team in form, but the challenge of performing in high altitude at the Azteca, which sits 7,350 feet above sea level.

"The altitude will be, of course, a big disadvantage because we cannot physically adapt to it in four days. It's just impossible," England manager Thomas Tuchel said.

England flew out from its training base in Kansas on Friday, a day earlier than their normal practice of traveling on the eve of the game.

On top of the physical exertion of dealing with the altitude, Tuchel is keen to get as prepared as possible for how it affects the movement of the ball.

"The ball will fly differently," he said. "It will fly maybe five yards more. It's just difficult. We just need the experience."

England already has faced World Cup heartbreak at the Azteca, where its most famous defeat in the competition took place 40 years ago.

Diego Maradona's mix of cheating and devastating skill secured a 2-1 win for Argentina in the quarterfinals. Maradona famously punched the ball into the net for the opening goal, which he christened "the Hand of God."

Moments later Maradona led the English defense a merry dance to score one of the all-time great World Cup goals.

Mexico may not be blessed with that individual talent, but the club is an incredibly tough nut to crack at the Azteca. In 89 matches at the iconic stadium, Mexico has lost just twice and have never been defeated in 10 World Cup games there.

In a sprawling tournament spread over three host countries and 16 cities, passion for the sport's showpiece event appears most ferocious in Mexico's capital. More than one million people took to the streets of Mexico's capital after the victory over Ecuador, with at least four deaths reported.

Ecuador filed a complaint with FIFA after their players were kept awake by noisy Mexican fans ahead of their match.

England is attempting to keep the location of their hotel a secret, fearing the extra disadvantage of disrupted sleep. But Tuchel said they had to "expect everything" and still rise to the challenge of what he described as "one of the most beautiful fixtures, the most exciting fixtures that you can have."

England's hopes might well rest with their proven matchwinner Kane, who took his 2025-26 season goals tally to an incredible 72 for club for country in the win over Congo.

"No matter the situation, no matter what kind of chance I get, I feel like I can score goals," Kane said. "I just think there's a mixture of everything coming together at the right time."

Pubs in England have been allowed to remain open until 5 a.m. so fans can follow the match. Kane and company must deliver if they are to be raising glasses in celebration rather than drowning sorrows of more World Cup woe.

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KILLER KYLIAN

Mbappé's goal leads France past Paraguay & into quarters

By CHRISTIAN ARNOLD

FRANCE 1
PARAGUAY 0
World Cup Round of 16

PHILADELPHIA — France wanted to make sure that the rest of the field in the World Cup knew that it could find plenty of ways to win.

Kylian Mbappé made sure to get that message across after France's 1-0 win over Paraguay in front of a sellout crowd of 68,324, who braved the extreme heat here Saturday. Far from the flashy wins that France has produced this World Cup, it got down and dirty in a physical matchup with Paraguay that ended with a brief skirmish between the French star and Paraguay goalkeeper Orlando Gill.

"If we have to get our hands dirty, we'll do it," Mbappé told broadcasters after the match. "They thought we'd just turn up in tuxedos, make a few flashy moves and play a few passes. We know how to play rough football too. And that's exactly what we did today — we won. We were even better than them at that."

Mbappé found himself involved in several tense moments, from a rough tackle late in the first half to a moment with Gill that resulted in the Paraguayan throwing the ball at him. In the end, Mbappé had the last laugh as the victor, scoring the go-ahead goal on a penalty kick in the 70th minute, which was awarded after the video assistant referee ruled that a tackle by Paraguayan defender Gustavo Gómez was a foul.

The scrappy victory sends France to the quarterfinals and a date with Morocco on Thursday in Boston.

The French soccer star tied Lionel Messi with seven goals in this year's tournament and scored his 19th career goal in his 19th career World Cup match after making his debut for Les Bleus during the 2018 World Cup in Russia. Mbappé is one goal behind Messi for the all-time World Cup goal-scoring record.

Mbappé and France were not short on chances, but to Paraguay's credit, its physical style of play helped temper the machine-like offense that Les Bleus have shown this tournament. And the physicality that Paraguay brought forced French manager Didier Deschamps to calm his squad down.

"Well, we were in the lead and if we play into their hands we can't get out of this," Deschamps said he told his players to settle them.

But the French manager also viewed the dogfight as a positive for his team, which he said was "having it easy" thus far through the tournament.

The physicality picked up as the match went on, and in the 35th minute, it looked as though the two sides might come to blows after Mbappé took exception to an aggressive defensive play by Andrés Cubas. Mbappé and Cubas exchanged words, leading to both teams charging in to defend their respective players, with several players exchanging shoves.

The sweltering heat was hard to ignore Saturday, as temperatures hovered around 100 degrees near the start of the match and only dipped slightly as the evening went on.

FIFA honored the 250th anniversary of America with a prematch ceremony that included a military flyover and special performances before the match by the Philadelphia Boys Choir & Chorale, as well as by the Roots and the national anthem by Idina Menzel.

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CAN'T BE STOPPED: French megastar Kylian Mbappé played his 19th World Cup match Saturday night and scored his 19th career goal in World Cup play against Paraguay in Philadelphia. Getty Images

USMNT relishes July 4 festivities

By MICHAEL DUARTE

SEATTLE — Members of the United States national team were slated to gather Saturday night with family and friends atop a downtown rooftop here to watch the fireworks burst from barges over Lake Union. There was to be barbecue and laughter, maybe even a quiet moment to appreciate that they are spending America's 250th birthday in the middle of the biggest sporting event on the planet.

Then it will be back to work.

Monday's Round of 16 showdown against Belgium is the biggest match this generation of American players has ever faced. Yet perhaps the most compelling thing about this team isn't what it has accomplished on the field. It's what it represents beyond the touchlines.

The U.S. arrives at this Fourth of July celebration at a time when Americans often seem to agree on very little. The national team is no different in its makeup. This 26-man roster spans generations, backgrounds and life experiences. They come from different cultures, faiths and corners of the soccer world.

Yet they are united by one jersey.

"It's doubly special because it's during the World Cup, and triple special because it's here in the U.S.," said veteran team captain Tim Ream. "We've said this as a group — with all our different backgrounds, where we've all grown up — it's a true representation of what America is. It's a melting pot of people, of personalities, of characters. It's a perfect representation of what the U.S. is and what it's about."

Ream laughed that celebrating July Fourth always felt different during his years in England playing in the Premier League for Fulham.

"A lot of people don't actually know why we celebrate the Fourth. Which is crazy to me, since they were a big part of why we celebrate," he joked. "For me it's barbecue, family, fireworks and celebrating what it means to have freedom."

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USMNT NOTES

Underdog or not, U.S. ready to seize opportunity

By ETHAN SEARS

SEATTLE — There's no real way to define the kind of win the U.S. national team doesn't have, so people have settled on "signature win," as if its three victories so far at this World Cup don't qualify. Maybe the better way to put it is a win as an underdog, which the USMNT hasn't had at a World Cup since 2002.

Of course, if you want to get technical, whether the U.S. is an underdog Monday against Belgium depends on where and when you're getting odds. Still, this Round of 16 clash would qualify, in this ill-defined manner, as the sort of win that's never happened — against a European power, to get to a quarterfinal, with America watching.

Record numbers already watched the U.S. defeat Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32; the World Cup has become the soundtrack of the semiquincentennial summer. Another win and who knows where this could go.

"It would mean a lot, and I feel like belief is already great in this country — if we do that, the belief is going to be even bigger," Sergiño Dest said before Saturday's training. "It's an important game. Belgium is a great opponent but we also see opportunities for us to win, because we're a great team at the moment."

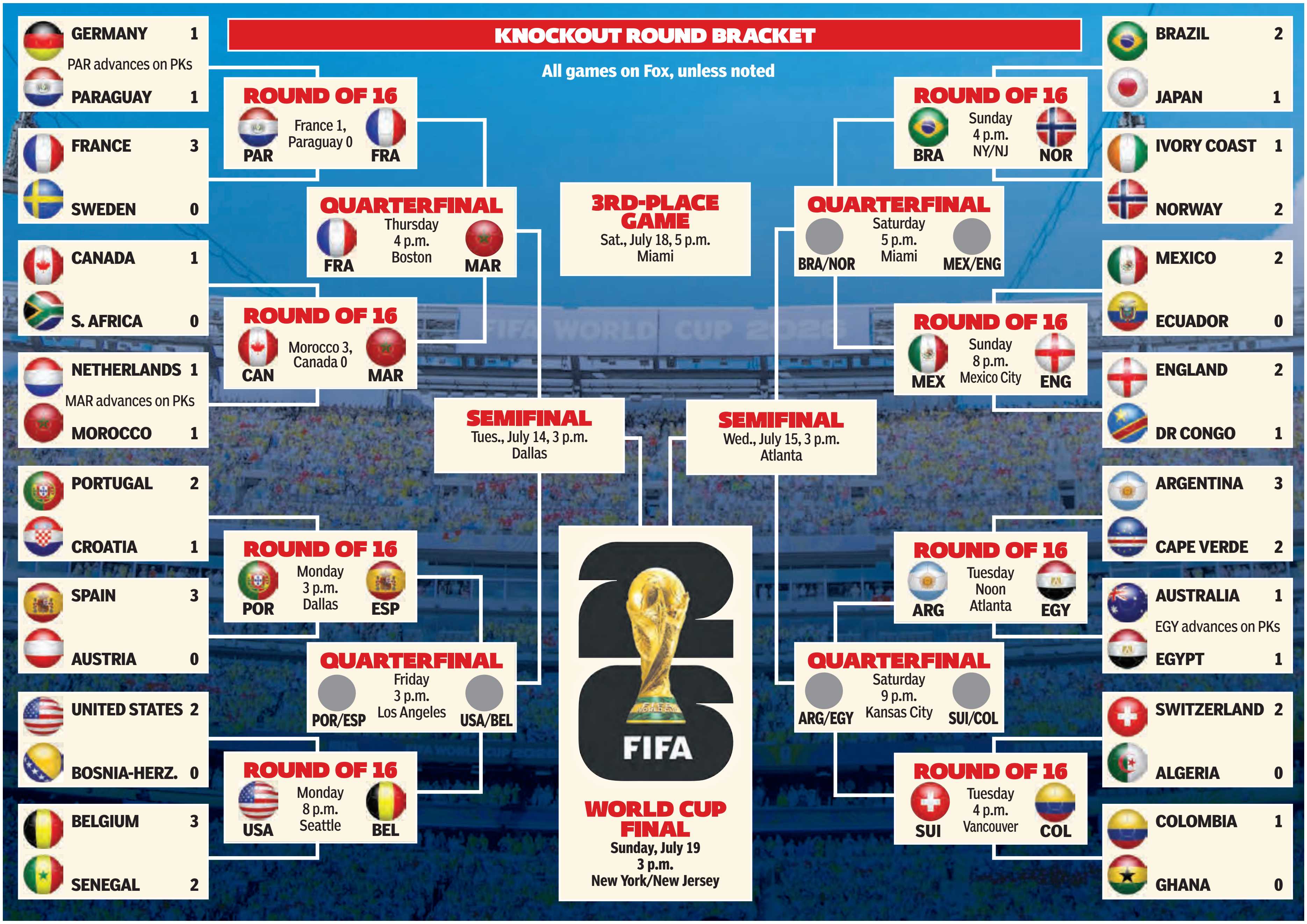
Indeed, one could make a convincing argument that the U.S. has been a better team at this World Cup than Belgium, which struggled through two draws to start its campaign before beating New Zealand to secure passage out of the group.

Still, the star power on the Red Devils roster — Jérémy Doku, Kevin De Bruyne, Leandro Trossard — eclipses that of the USMNT. Beating them would send a signal that this is no false start: American soccer has arrived as a team to be reckoned with, against anyone at any time.

➤ **Cristian Roldan** (strained quad) remained in modified training. All 25 other players were full participants.

WORLD CUP '26

WHERE: USA, MEXICO AND CANADA · WHEN: JUNE 11-JULY 19



KNOCKOUT ROUND BRACKET

All games on Fox, unless noted

GERMANY 1
PAR advances on PKs
PARAGUAY 1

FRANCE 3
SWEDEN 0

CANADA 1
S. AFRICA 0

NETHERLANDS 1
MAR advances on PKs
MOROCCO 1

PORTUGAL 2
CROATIA 1

SPAIN 3
AUSTRIA 0

UNITED STATES 2
BOSNIA-HERZ. 0

BELGIUM 3
SENEGAL 2

ROUND OF 16
PAR France 1, Paraguay 0 FRA

ROUND OF 16
CAN Morocco 3, Canada 0 MAR

ROUND OF 16
POR Monday 3 p.m. Dallas ESP

ROUND OF 16
USA Monday 8 p.m. Seattle BEL

QUARTERFINAL
FRA Thursday 4 p.m. Boston MAR

QUARTERFINAL
POR/ESP Friday 3 p.m. Los Angeles USA/BEL

SEMIFINAL
Tues., July 14, 3 p.m.
Dallas

3RD-PLACE GAME
Sat., July 18, 5 p.m.
Miami

WORLD CUP FINAL
Sunday, July 19
3 p.m.
New York/New Jersey

SEMIFINAL
Wed., July 15, 3 p.m.
Atlanta

QUARTERFINAL
BRA/NOR Saturday 5 p.m. Miami MEX/ENG

QUARTERFINAL
ARG/EGY Saturday 9 p.m. Kansas City SUI/COL

ROUND OF 16
BRA Sunday 4 p.m. NY/NJ NOR

ROUND OF 16
MEX Sunday 8 p.m. Mexico City ENG

ROUND OF 16
ARG Tuesday Noon Atlanta EGY

ROUND OF 16
SUI Tuesday 4 p.m. Vancouver COL

BRAZIL 2
JAPAN 1

IVORY COAST 1
NORWAY 2

MEXICO 2
ECUADOR 0

ENGLAND 2
DR CONGO 1

ARGENTINA 3
CAPE VERDE 2

AUSTRALIA 1
EGY advances on PKs
EGYPT 1

SWITZERLAND 2
ALGERIA 0

COLOMBIA 1
GHANA 0

Ounahi scores twice as Morocco shuts out Canada

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

MOROCCO	**3**	**World Cup Round of 16**
CANADA	**0**	

HOUSTON — Azzedine Ounahi scored twice to lead Morocco to a 3-0 win over Canada in the World Cup round of 16 Saturday to make the country the first African nation to reach the quarterfinals more than once.

It's Morocco's second straight appearance in the quarterfinals after becoming the first African team to reach the semifinals in 2022.

"We are no longer a surprise," coach Mohamed Ouahbi said through a translator. "Now when people talk about Morocco we're a major contender and it's a great source of pride. I think it's only the beginning and I hope we continue to have runs like this."

Neither team was able to break through until Ounahi took a free kick from Achraf Hakimi and made a right-footed shot through traffic from outside the box to the bottom right corner to put Morocco on top 1-0 in the 50th minute.

Ounahi made it 2-0 on a right-footed shot from the middle of the box off a pass from Brahim Díaz in the 82nd minute.

Soufiane Rahimi added a goal in the final minute of stoppage time.

Morocco advances to face the winner of Saturday's Paraguay-France match on Thursday at Boston Stadium.

The loss ends a historic run for World Cup co-host Canada, which won its first-ever knockout round with a 1-0 victory over South Africa to reach Saturday's match. The country was playing in the World Cup for just the third time and the run enchanted a nation that is normally far more interested in hockey than the pitch.

Canada coach Jesse Marsch shared his postgame message to the team.

"I told them that I was proud of them and I challenged them to understand that we can play like this all the time against the best teams in the world," he said. "We can be better on the day. And then the challenge is, can we hold that standard for 90 minutes?"

Morocco, which is ranked sixth in the FIFA rankings, dispatched the Netherlands in a penalty shootout to reach the round of 16 and send the country to its earliest World Cup exit.

Though Marsch mistakenly said Morocco is ranked one spot lower than it is, he lauded how his team performed against a squad of its caliber and of how Canada controlled the match for much of the day.

"The way we pushed, the way we were in the match, the quality we showed, the overall impact in the match, we were better," he said. "We were better than the No. 7 team in the world today."

Ouahbi had a strong response when told of those comments.

"In terms of intensity they were good," he said. "They were good for 98 minutes. Were they better? It's hard to say. It takes some nerve to say that when you lose 3-nil."

Canada had a couple of chances to score late. Jonathan David had a free kick from outside the box in the 78th minute, but his shot sailed over the crossbar.

Just after that Tajon Buchanan's shot from about 30 yards was stopped with a diving save from goalkeeper Yassine Bounou. Bounou, who was born in Canada to Moroccan parents, had three saves.

— *AP*

U.S. has to be on its game vs. Belgium

By MICHAEL DUARTE

SEATTLE — Belgium spent the first week of this World Cup looking strangely ordinary. By the time the Round of 16 arrived, the Red Devils had reminded everyone exactly why they remain one of the world's most dangerous teams.

Belgium limped through scoreless stretches against Egypt and Iran, producing just one goal in its first two group matches before erupting for five goals in a demolition of New Zealand to close out the group stage. Then came an even louder warning. Trailing Senegal deep into the Round of 32, Belgium waited patiently before detonating, scoring two goals in less than three minutes to force extra time, where a dramatic late winner completed a comeback that showcased the ruthless finishing power lurking beneath an inconsistent tournament.

And the Americans watched every minute of it.

"Belgium is a great side. They showed their quality against Senegal," midfielder Tyler Adams said. "Obviously, going 120 minutes is a little bit different than us, so we can be a little bit more fresh. Hopefully bring that energy and continue to keep the tempo high."

Keeping the tempo high is one strategy, but it could backfire. Senegal started fast but ran out of gas late. That's the danger when trying to push the pace against a team with a ferocious attack like Belgium's.

Adams, the vocal leader of the midfield and the U.S.'s best defensive player in the center of the pitch, understands the assignment. Belgium's roster is overflowing with elite talent, from Premier League veterans to longtime stars like Jérémy Doku, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, each of whom continues to deliver on soccer's biggest stage.

"Belgium has an obviously unbelievable squad," Adams said. "They have so much talent. ... They're a team that likes to play attacking football. How you manage those moments is gonna be really important."

The matchup carries fresh history. Belgium defeated the U.S. 5-2 in March, but veteran captain Tim Ream dismissed any temptation to treat Monday as a sequel.

"We're two very different teams now than we were in March," Ream said. "We're both trying to move on in the biggest tournament in sports history. ... It's a completely different game than in March."

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'MAN OF THE HOUR

Despite up-and-down club season in Germany, Tillman seized his moment on world stage Wednesday

By ETHAN SEARS

Monday
U.S. vs. BELGIUM
Round of 16
8 p.m.
In Seattle
Fox

SEATTLE — When Malik Tillman was little, too young to be thinking about his future, he went through a phase of wanting to be a goalkeeper.

He and his brother, Timothy, would practice free kicks all the time, one shooting and the other in goal. During these months — sometime between the ages of 7 and 9, by his brother's estimation — Malik would volunteer to play goal more often.

It didn't take long for it to become obvious that his future lay elsewhere.

"No one wanted us to be in goal," Timmy Tillman told The Post. "They all said, 'No, you better stay on the field.' "

It's a good thing Malik listened, and a good thing he kept working on shooting free kicks instead of stopping them. The shot he curled in to seal the U.S. national team's Round of 32 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina on Wednesday marked what is so far the signature moment of the World Cup as it readies for Monday night's Round of 16 match against Belgium.

Standing over the ball before taking the kick, Tillman, Antonee Robinson and Tyler Adams talked about the best way to approach it. Robinson expected the wall to jump and thought Tillman should go underneath it. From so close to the box, getting it over and back down would be highly challenging anyway.

Tillman knew, though, that he could — and for good measure, the wall didn't jump.

"I know some guys doubted me that I could go over the wall," Tillman said. "But I practiced this in training."

His first World Cup goal only put an exclamation mark on what has, quietly, been a standout competition so far for the 24-year-old. The image of Tillman after the match, his sock bloody after a defender's cleat went through it, prompting a midgame change, was as defining as anything has been over the past month.

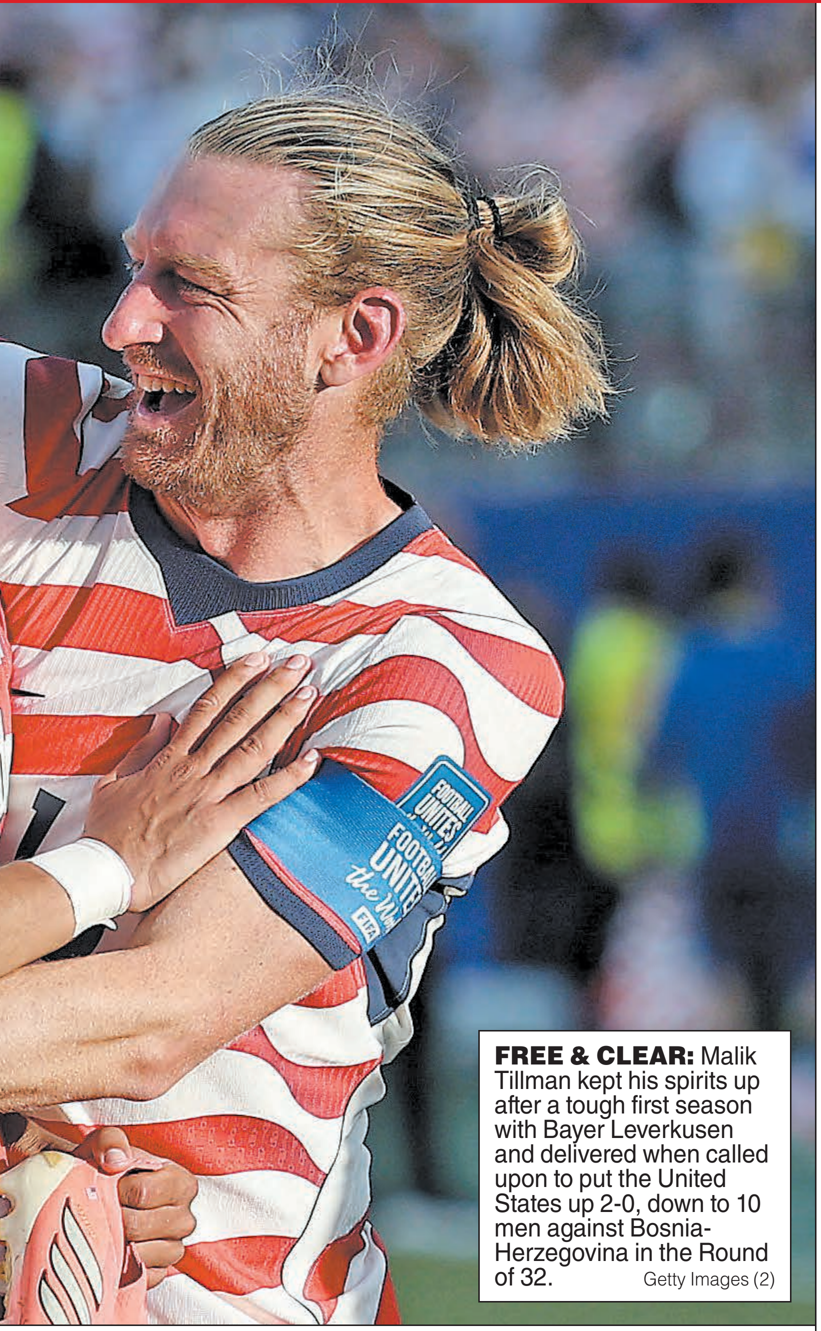
"Try to convince him to put some rubbing alcohol on it, he's like no chance," Weston McKennie said. "But, amazing finish. He's worked on that in training."

"It's just pain, I guess," Tillman said. "Nothing too bad."

Just two months ago, Tillman was struggling for minutes over the final stretch of what was already a taxing first season at Bayer Leverkusen in Germany's Bundesliga. He easily could have taken it poorly when informed by Mauricio Pochettino that he would be playing in central midfield at the World Cup, deeper than his usual attacking midfield spot.

Instead, he has thrived in the role he's been given. He's played a key role in the team's buildup and ball movement. He picked up an assist against Paraguay, and the touch of a Bosnian defender's foot prevented him from notching a second on Folarin Balogun's opener Wednesday. He's dutifully worked on the defensive end too.

Tillman cuts a quiet figure, speaking in a low voice and sounding reluctant to be too self-



FREE & CLEAR: Malik Tillman kept his spirits up after a tough first season with Bayer Leverkusen and delivered when called upon to put the United States up 2-0, down to 10 men against Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32. Getty Images (2)

congratulatory. Don't take that for him not caring.

"I'd argue, other than goals, he's been our best player everywhere on the field," captain Tim Ream said. "Doing the dirty things, but then also making the hard things look easy. And I think he just wanted to feel like he had a place.

"He's a quiet kid, but he's just come on leaps and bounds. I think the Gold Cup [last summer] was really huge. I think the adversity of the Costa Rica game penalty [miss] — now you look at him and he looks like a completely different player. It's incredible to see. He's had that in him all this time, it was just a matter of him finding the confidence and believing in himself."

At times last season, the belief didn't come easily. Tillman went from having a locked-in spot in the squad at PSV Eindhoven in the Netherlands' Eredivisie, where he scored 16 times in 2024-25, to a harder league and tougher internal competition.

He and his brother, who plays for LAFC, talk weekly to catch up. It's not always a conversation about soccer, but late this season, Timmy felt compelled to give Malik some advice.

"I think it's been pretty much the first setback in his young career, this year at Leverkusen. He wasn't always the happiest," Timmy said. "But I spoke to him towards the end of this season. I just told him to prepare as well as possible for the World Cup. The World Cup is always a big chance for every player who's playing there."

Good advice, it turned out.

"He worked hard, I guess," Timmy said. "Got ready for the moment and now is just living it."

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Could be time for GK Freese to save the day

SEATTLE — Shep Messing playfully likes to call himself "the second-best goalkeeper to come out of Harvard."

Messing, the former Cosmos goalkeeper in the '70s days of Pelé, Giorgio Chinaglia and Franz Beckenbauer, is not unlike the rest of the countless tens of millions of Americans rooting on the U.S. national team in this World Cup.

He hopes the best keeper ever to come out of Harvard — U.S. starter Matt Freese — has the game of his life against Belgium in Monday's Round of 16 match at Seattle Stadium.

"He hasn't truly been tested yet in this World Cup," Messing, now an MLS analyst for Apple TV, told The Post on Saturday. "I believe he's going to be tested in this game."

Indeed, Belgium is a significant step up in competition for the U.S., which has produced three wins and one loss in this World Cup with two clean sheets and allowing only one goal in its three wins.

Freese, the NYCFC keeper who played at Harvard in 2017-18, a few years after Messing's two years playing there (1970-1971), had an uneventful two matches against Paraguay (a 4-1 U.S. win) and Australia (a 2-0 win) in the first two legs of Group D.

He didn't have to make a single save against Paraguay and he stopped both of the shots the Aussies put on frame.

In Wednesday's 2-0 win over Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Round of 32, Freese got a little more action, having to make three saves — the best of which came on a near Olimpico goal off a Bosnia corner kick.

Still, he hasn't yet faced a moment when he's had to save a game, the way some keepers have in this World Cup, like Cabo Verde's Vozinha stood on his head for much of the tournament before finally falling to Argentina in extra time on Friday.

With Belgium entering this match having scored eight goals in its previous two wins, including a three-goal late comeback to overcome a 2-0 Senegal lead and win 3-2 in the Round of 32, Messing believes that moment may arrive Monday night.

And he believes Freese will be up to the task.

MR. FREESE: Matt Freese hasn't had much work to do in this World Cup, but he may be called upon to play hero against Belgium in the Round of 16. AP

Mark Cannizzaro

"Belgium's a tough matchup for them," Messing said. "They have [Thibaut] Courtois in goal and they have [Kevin] De Bruyne and [Romelu] Lukaku up front. Matt may have to be a difference maker on Monday night."

In the 2014 Round of 16, Belgium defeated the U.S. 2-1 in a match the American goalkeeper Tim Howard nearly stole single-handedly when he made a World Cup record 16 saves.

In extra time of that match, Belgium broke a scoreless game through regulation time with goals from De Bruyne and Lukaku, both of whom will be trying to score on Freese on Monday night.

Messing is very invested in Freese and how he performs, because he said he "discovered" him when Freese was a 16-year-old playing in the Philadelphia Union's youth development system.

Messing got a call from the coach who was running the system to come see Freese play. He did, and immediately called the Harvard coach at the time and said, "I heard this kid has the grades. You've got to take a look at him."

"I put in the first good word for him," Messing said. "I don't even know if Matt knows that."

Messing loves the tools Freese has — the size, athleticism, agility and quickness, and added, "But what I appreciate most about Matt when I watch him play is his poise. He's under control."

Tim Ream, the 38-year-old U.S. defender and team captain, agreed that it's the nuances to the job that he admires most about Freese.

"There are so many things he does in a game you can't quantify, can't put a stat on — communication, organization — and those things matter," Ream said Saturday before the team training session. "We know that if something does happen, he's there and has our back, and when he's called upon he'll do his job."

Messing said he's only spoken to Freese "once or twice" about their Harvard connection.

"I don't want to tease about it, but my teams were a lot better than his," Messing said. "I tell people that when they ask me about the Harvard connection between us. My team went to the Final Four two years in a row. I'm not quite sure how Matt's teams did, but they weren't as good."

Freese's 2017 team went 2-10-4 and in 2018 it was 3-13. Messing's 1970 team went 12-1 and lost in the NCAA quarterfinals. In 1971, it was 13-2 and lost in the NCAA semis.

"But look," Messing said, "Matt made the jump, he's a great pro and he's only going to get better."

Hopefully, for the sake of the U.S. and the rabid American fans who've been pulled along on this World Cup journey and are completely bought in, Freese is the best he's ever been against Belgium.

Because that might be what it takes for the U.S. to advance to the quarterfinal round for just the second time in its World Cup history.

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OPEN MIKE

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TURNCOATS

Picking a team is serious business — change fan allegiances at your own peril

AND HERE'S the flip side:

Last week we allowed Mets fans a six-month head start on Festivus, the annual airing of grievances made popular by Frank Costanza. And there were grievances aplenty. And, sad to say, things haven't gotten a lot better in the Land of Mets since those laments were listed.

The Mets seem to be doing their best to drive fans away. A few of the correspondents suggested the only way to right the wrongs of the current administration is to stay away, and that seemed like a terrific idea except that the day that column aired, 38,770 people watched the Mets-Phillies game, on a Sunday night no less. That's 93 percent capacity (and the Mets responded nobly, blowing the game late).

And here's the thing:

I get it.

Fandom isn't something that's taken lightly by anyone who's actually a fan. It's inexplicable. It's inextricable. You pick a team and they're your team. It's all but non-negotiable. There are waivers to that rule: A lot of Dodgers and Giants fans refused to follow their teams 3,000 miles when they skipped town in 1957. Some of them swallowed hard and converted to the Yankees. Many decided to adopt every team that played the Yankees. Most waited the four years before the Mets were a choice, and adopted them.

These laws are becoming less and less certain in a time when kids can pick any team they want in any sport and watch every game regardless of time zone and go from there. I have a friend who's a longtime Giants fan who lives in Jersey and raised two sons: one's a Rams fan and the other is a Chiefs fan. Go figure.

That option wasn't available until recently, however. Often, we became fans because of who our parents rooted for. Sometimes it was because of our friends. Maybe you were young enough to pick the Cowboys or the Steelers before the roots with the Giants and Jets grew too deep. Almost always, it was based on geography.

And always, it was permanent.

Not long before the NBA Finals, The Post's Doree Lewak caught up with Evan Perlmutter, 40, who in 2018 — one of the genuinely rock-bottomest rock bottoms in recent Knicks history — put his fandom up for auction, tired of years of Knicks desolation.

Helayne Seidman

WHOOPS! As a frustrated Knicks fan in 2018, Evan Perlmutter sold his fandom on eBay. He was contracted to become a Lakers fan by the auction winner. He just had to watch his former team win a title.

As Lewak wrote: "In one final act of desperation, he wrote an impassioned 2,000-word cry for help on eBay, titled, 'Infuriated New York Knicks fan has had enough, selling my fanhood.' "

It caught the attention of a Southern California YouTuber named James Riedel, who bid a cool $3,450 — on the condition that Perlmutter become a Los Angeles Lakers fan.

Perlmutter did that. He was rewarded with a sweet influx of cash and the 2020 bubble championship after just two years of hardcore Lakers suffering.

And even after his old team was blitzing toward a title the past few months, Perlmutter insisted: "I have no regrets."

Now, far be it from me to accuse someone of anything less than complete transparency, but I have a hard time believing that. And Knicks fans have always responded viscerally to this story, even before the worm began to turn for them.

Why?

Because championships are always best savored by those who must endure the desert before the oasis. The legion of Knicks fans breaking out their dusty old Robin Lopez jerseys are just the latest. Giants fans who famously endured 18 years of lousy football will always have a soft spot for the '86 Giants. Mets fans who suffer through the daily indignities of that chore, many of them are old enough to remember the desolation of 1977-83 and the stark contrast of the '86 World Beaters.

Hell, for generations, there's an element of Yankees fans who can identify the most street-credentialed among themselves by simply saying "Horace Clarke" to one another.

(I once asked Clarke if it bothered him that he'd become the shorthand example of hard Yankees times. An extremely pleasant man, he said, "No, my friend. Isn't it wonderful to be remembered?")

Perlmutter bailed. Now, to his credit, he owns that and publicly believes he did the right thing, and good for him if that's so. But I suspect most prefer the fictional version of Perlmutter who stars in a terrific 20-minute short, "The Damn Knicks."

In that short, created by filmmaker/Knicks fan Bobby Friedman — available on YouTube, and hopefully a prelude to a feature-length version — "Smitty" has the dastardly deed done on his behalf and ...

Well, watch it. It's worth your time.

VAC'S WHACKS

AS MY guy **Hale** says, the way college basketball operates now, I half expect **LeBron James** to be **Donnie Freeman**'s replacement for **Rick Pitino** with the Johnnies.

➤ Two terrific summer reads for you: "Elvis, Aretha and the Babe: 8/16 — Three Times the Bell Would Toll," by the great **John Cirillo**. And "Legs, Hearts, Minds: Loss and Its Remedies" by the peerless **Chris Jones**.

➤ I'm glad I was able to see **Mariska Hargitay** (below) in "Every Brilliant Thing." It's a reminder (as if we needed another) that she is one of this city's genuine treasures.

➤ If the Spurs' star center had decided to take up soccer, **Marv Albert** could've dubbed him **Victor** "Red Card" **Wembanyama**.

BRILLIANT THING
THE KNICKS

WHACK BACK AT VAC

Tom Small: After watching the Mets this year, in particular the six-error game, I can picture two men discussing them in Baseball Heaven: the great Jimmy Breslin: "Can't anyone here play this game?" The Original Met "Marvelous" Marv Throneberry: "Nope !"

Vac: *I suspect your season has taken a wrong turn if '62 Mets references suddenly seem relevant.*

Michael Catarevas: As a longtime Post subscriber I have a favor to ask. Following in the footsteps of the legendary Peter Vecsey, who nicknamed lots of NBA folks, I would like you to start referring to David Stearns as Nico Stearns, in honor of the worst GM in sports history, Nico Harrison. How about it?

Vac: *Let's give it a test drive. Folks, what do you think?*

@onefournybaby: My first bet at Aqueduct was a trifecta, although we called it a triple back then, and my last bet at the Big A the same and both times I had 2/3 . If you didn't grow up within walking distance of an OTB, you didn't grow up proper in NYC.

Vac: *Played the last race ever at Aqueduct. Won the $1 exacta box, 4-6, $37.41. Mick the Pro would be exceedingly happy and proud.*

Jeff Sanders: When are the Mets going to trade Freddy Peralta?

Vac: *The way things are going for poor Freddy you may have misspelled "DFA."*

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YOU'RE WELCOME

Trades by N.Y. clubs paying off for other teams

Joel Sherman

Hardball

ON JAN. 28, the Rockies made a pair of seemingly minor trades to acquire lefty bats. For those who cared about such items, the one that gleaned a tad more interest was obtaining Edouard Julien from the Twins, since he had major league experience dating to 2023, when he actually finished seventh for AL Rookie of the Year.

For those who noted the other deal, it was mainly about the Yankees side of it. They were determined to add power and depth options to their bullpen and had success in the recent past taking a talented arm, like Angel Chivilli, and working to shape and sequence the stuff better.

The Yankees traded TJ Rumfield, who would turn 26 in May, had just spent two seasons at Triple-A and wasn't even on the 40-man roster, which meant a month earlier every team had a shot at him in the Rule 5 draft and passed. Most overtly, as a lefty-swinging first baseman, he was blocked by Ben Rice.

The Rockies, who had the fewest lefty plate appearances in 2025, were prioritizing that side of the plate, which is why earlier in the month they had acquired outfielder Jake McCarthy from the Diamondbacks for pitcher Josh Grosz, who was part of the return from the Yankees last July for Ryan McMahon. They also signed switch-hitting Willi Castro, plus added Julien. They focused on players in their 20s who might have hit roadblocks, but still had profiles the team liked.

In Rumfield's case, though he was a first baseman only and not a high-end athlete. He handled the position well defensively, and had been productive and getting better steadily at Triple-A, showing a penchant to hit different types of pitching.

McCarthy, but especially Rumfield has rewarded the faith. Rumfield had a terrific spring to win the job, and his OPS has gone up each month — from .743 to .883 to .989 in June when he was named the NL Rookie of the Month. He is no Coors monster, with a better OPS on the road (.870) than home (.850). And he actually stacks up well against Rice, who has the superior homer total (23-13) and OPS (.931-.860), but Rumfield had the higher average (.293-.270) and, aided by the defense gap, Baseball Reference Wins Above Replacement total (2.2-2.0).

Chivilli has made just two Yankees appearances. There has been injury, but also continuing concerns that though he throws 98 mph regularly, it is without deception and easy to hit, and he walks too many thus does not often enough get to the devious changeup that intrigued the Yankees. So he is at Triple-A with outfielder Yanquiel Fernández, who was taken off the Rockies 40-man roster for Julien/Rumfield and picked up on waivers by the Yankees.

Rumfield has been among the majors' best under-the-radar acquisitions of the offseason. Here are a few more with ties to the Mets or Yankees (all stats through Friday:

1. Bryan Hudson, White Sox: Chicago actually had sold his rights to the Mets just before spring training began. But the Mets' addiction to Richard Lovelady led to him making the team out of spring for the lefty relief spot. The Mets designated Hudson for assignment and traded him back to the White Sox. Lovelady lasted until April 11 before being DFA'd and traded to the Nationals. Hudson has been among the majors' best lefty relievers with a 2.31 ERA in 40 games and has faced the second-most righties this season (91) without allowing a homer.

Another under-the-radar White Sox success story is at least Mets proximate. Chicago traded its center fielder Luis Robert Jr. to the Mets in January. That opened a spot for Tristan Peters, whose rights had been bought in December from Tampa Bay. Peters had a 117 OPS-plus and was second in position player WAR (2.4) for the surprising White Sox.

2. Jorge Mateo/Dom Smith, Braves: Atlanta has staggered recently, but one reason it had surged to the top of the NL East was a bunch of secondary acquisitions such as Mauricio Dubón and Jonah Heim (who was subsequently traded to the A's). From that category is Mateo, who signed a one-year, $1 million deal, and Smith, who had a split contract that pays him $1.25 million in the majors.

Mateo, the Yankees' top prospect going into 2016 and eventually a key to obtaining Sonny Gray from the A's, has brought versatility and speed to the Braves, but mainly has teamed with Dubón to help Atlanta overcome first injury to shortstop Ha-Seong Kim and then miserable play. Smith, the Mets' first pick in 2013, has stumbled after a lightning start, but still had a .765 OPS vs. righty pitching.

3. Jake Bauers, Brewers: Bauers hinted at power in 2023, but had a minus-0.9 WAR as the Yankees missed the playoffs. He has been a Brewer ever since, but he was non-tendered after last season before re-signing for $2.75 million. He topped the NL Central leaders with 15 homers and 52 RBIs, particularly clobbering righty pitching (.916 OPS).

You know who else was beating up lefty pitching? That would be Brewers backup catcher Gary Sánchez (.952), who signed for $1.5 million as spring training began.

4. Colin Holderman, Guardians: A ninth-round Mets draft pick in 2016 who pitched for them in 2022, Holderman had a terrible 2025 for the Pirates (7.01 ERA). He was non-tendered and quickly signed by the Guardians for $1.5 million. The righty was one of four relievers this year who had thrown at least 30 innings with the combination of at least 30 percent strikeouts and 50 percent groundballs. His .143 batting average against was sixth among relievers and his 1.67 ERA was eighth.

5. Randal Grichuk, White Sox: The Yankees signed him in late February to a minor league contract worth $2.5 million in the majors. To be able to get Elmer Rodriguez on the 40-man roster to start in the majors, the Yanks DFA'd Grichuk on April 29. He signed with the White Sox on May 4 and has been exactly what the Yankees dreamed — a force against lefty pitching. His 1.200 OPS and seven homers vs. southpaws since joining the White Sox were both third best among those with 50 plate appearances. Like with Hudson and Peters, it is a small move that has helped fuel the White Sox.

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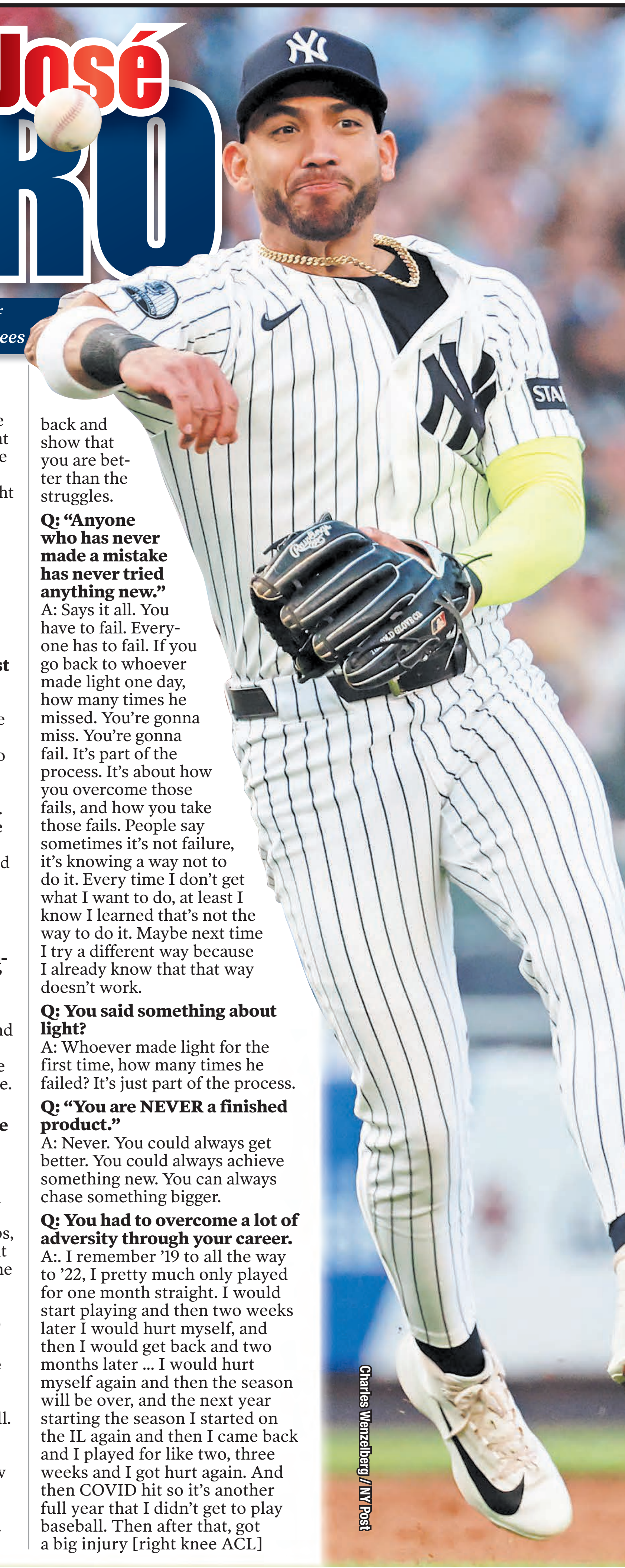
Jorge Mateo
Colin Holderman
TJ Rumfield
Jake Bauers

Getty Images (2); AP; UPI

SERBY'S SUNDAY Q&A WITH ...

José CABALLERO



Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post

PRESENTED BY Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

José Caballero, the Yankees shortstop/utility man acquired from the Rays at the trade deadline last season, takes a swing at some Q&A with Post columnist Steve Serby.

Q: What did your 100th career stolen base last year mean to you?
A: It means a lot because growing up and trying to become professional, I had a big injury on my leg, and they were doubting me if I could run again. So that's why running means a lot to me because I wanted to show the doubters that I could do it.

Q: What was the injury?
A: I broke my tibia and fibula when I was 16. I tried to catch a fly ball and one of my teammates at the time slid into me.

Q: Was that scary for you in terms of your future?
A: It was, for sure. In Latin America, that's when you sign professional, at least that's when they're looking for you. It was a really tough time for a kid like I was. I just turned 16 like a week before it happened. In the process of coming back on the rehab and things, scouts and people that know about baseball were doubting about my running skill just because they didn't know how I would come back. It was a big surgery as well — actually it was three surgeries on it, so people were concerned about it. ... So it means a lot to become a big leaguer that is known by his speed.

Q: How long were you sidelined for?
A: A year.

Q: That must have been torture for you.
A It was. I would go to the field and see all the scouts and all the people trying to recruit my teammates, and I was just on the sideline. It was pretty tough.

Q: What drives you?
A: Doubts.

Q: Why are there still doubters?
A: Because haters will alway hate. Doubters will alway doubt, let's say it that way.

Q: If I were on another team, would I not like you?
A: I can see why you wouldn't like me, but if you're just playing the game and understand that I'm just trying to win a game ... everyone has their way. Just because he's different doesn't mean he's a bad guy.

Q: What do you think opposing teams think of you?
A: That I'm annoying. And that's OK (laugh). I'm not trying to annoy anyone, but if that gives me an advantage like I always say, I will continue to do that.

Q: What do you think you do that makes them annoyed?
A: I always play the game different. ... I look for the smallest details, I guess, to irritate others. But if you don't pay attention to it you wouldn't get irritated. But if you are irritated I'm winning and trying to take advantage of the minimum of the game, because it's a hard game, it's a mental game, so I try to play the mental game a lot.

Q: Aaron Boone said about you: "He thinks he's the best player on the field."
A: That's who I am, man. I think if you don't believe in yourself no one will believe in you. It starts from your head. If you believe so, you become so, you know?

Q: Describe your on-field mentality.
A: A winning mentally. ... Every time I'm on the field I want to win everything. Having an at-bat, that's a war for me, like I'm trying to win that battle. It doesn't matter how, I'm trying to find a way to win that battle.

Q: Do you like to get into the pitcher's head?
A: I mean, if that's gonna distract and that's gonna give me a little advantage, I'll take that for sure (smile).

Q: Do you have a favorite position?
A: Not really ... to be in the lineup, that's my favorite position.

Q: What do you think your best position is?
A: To be honest with you, I think I'm a better second baseman than every other position. But I have more fun playing short than second. ... I don't know [why]. I think you are more involved in the game.

Q: When you were at Tampa Bay, was Gerrit Cole wagging his finger at you one night?
A: I don't think it was at me, I think it was more for my manager at the time, because he threw a ball way over my head that it hit the backstop. Kevin Cash was the manager at that time, and he went out to the field and he kind of like waved his finger at Gerrit saying like, "Don't do that," or so. So right after he struck me out, he waved his fingers at the dugout. I'm guessing it was to my manager.

Q: You never asked Gerrit about it?
A: No, not really. I didn't feel the need (laugh).

Q: From your Instagram: "Dreams without goals are just dreams."
A: That's right. For me it was a dream to become a Yankee, to be here in the big leagues, and if I don't try to be here, I don't try to be a big-leaguer, if I don't want to go through all those ups and downs, it comes with the dream. I wouldn't be here, I wouldn't be making my dream. So it would have been just a kid's dream. And now it's reality.

Q: "If you have faith as a mustard seed you will say to this mountain: Move from here to there and it will pass and nothing will be impossible to you."
A: That's the definition of faith. Without the faith in God I wouldn't be here. Faith in God and faith in what I'm doing and what I'm gonna become is what got me here, and it is what I have become.

Q: "If you stumble stand up, don't stop your fight, that's the only way you will have what you want so much."
A: I'm pretty sure that was when I was going through all these bad things. It's just about life, man. Everyone's gonna hit some bumps, and the only way to get through it is just stand up and keep going the direction you wanted to go and don't stop. It doesn't matter how big the obstacles are, you have to have conviction what you want.

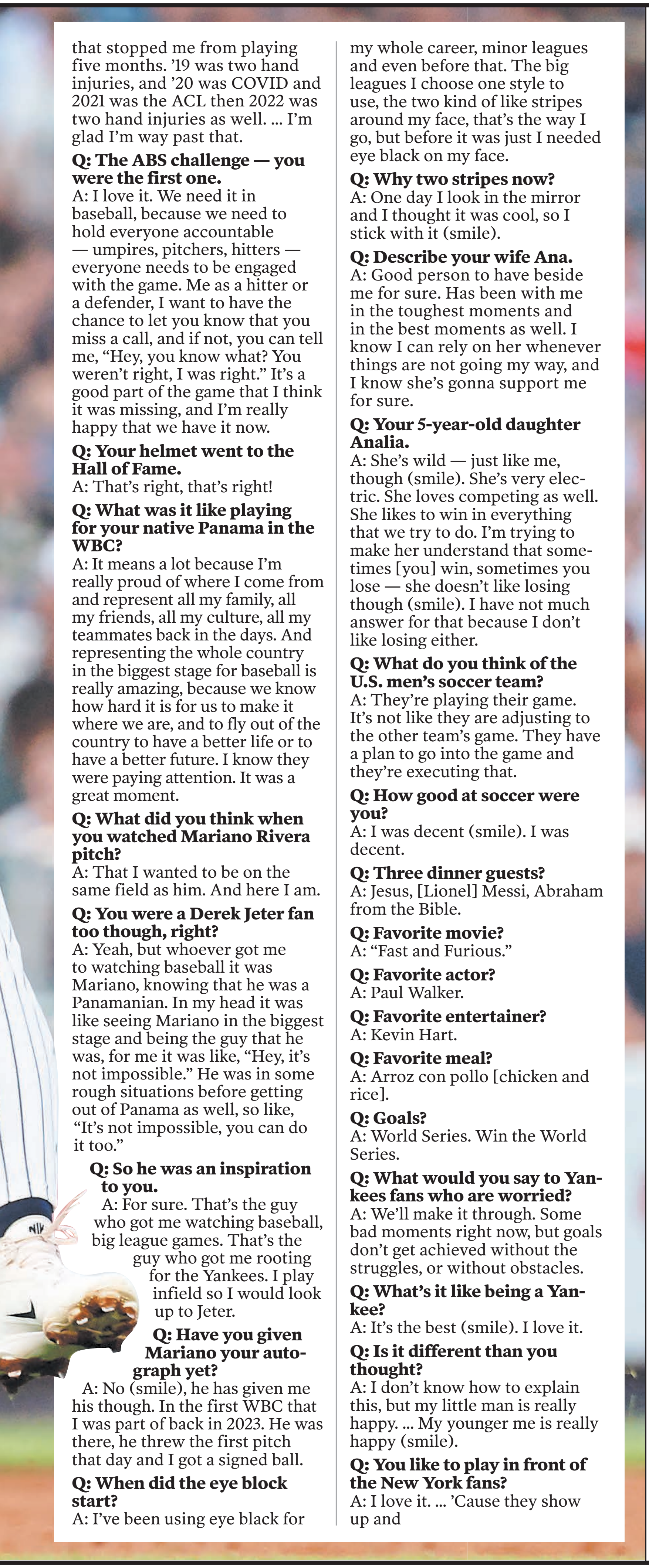
Q: "The only thing impossible in this life is what you don't try."
A: That's right. I think it says it all. I've seen so many good players that sometimes they don't have that much conviction, and I know how talented they were and they just didn't push hard enough to become what they really wanted. It's just how good you are to be back and show that you are better than the struggles.

Q: "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."
A: Says it all. You have to fail. Everyone has to fail. If you go back to whoever made light one day, how many times he missed. You're gonna miss. You're gonna fail. It's part of the process. It's about how you overcome those fails, and how you take those fails. People say sometimes it's not failure, it's knowing a way not to do it. Every time I don't get what I want to do, at least I know I learned that's not the way to do it. Maybe next time I try a different way because I already know that that way doesn't work.

Q: You said something about light?
A: Whoever made light for the first time, how many times he failed? It's just part of the process.

Q: "You are NEVER a finished product."
A: Never. You could always get better. You could always achieve something new. You can always chase something bigger.

Q: You had to overcome a lot of adversity through your career.
A:. I remember '19 to all the way to '22, I pretty much only played for one month straight. I would start playing and then two weeks later I would hurt myself, and then I would get back and two months later ... I would hurt myself again and then the season will be over, and the next year starting the season I started on the IL again and then I came back and I played for like two, three weeks and I got hurt again. And then COVID hit so it's another full year that I didn't get to play baseball. Then after that, got a big injury [right knee ACL]



that stopped me from playing five months. ’19 was two hand injuries, and ’20 was COVID and 2021 was the ACL then 2022 was two hand injuries as well. ... I’m glad I’m way past that.

Q: The ABS challenge — you were the first one.
A: I love it. We need it in baseball, because we need to hold everyone accountable — umpires, pitchers, hitters — everyone needs to be engaged with the game. Me as a hitter or a defender, I want to have the chance to let you know that you miss a call, and if not, you can tell me, “Hey, you know what? You weren’t right, I was right.” It’s a good part of the game that I think it was missing, and I’m really happy that we have it now.

Q: Your helmet went to the Hall of Fame.
A: That’s right, that’s right!

Q: What was it like playing for your native Panama in the WBC?
A: It means a lot because I’m really proud of where I come from and represent all my family, all my friends, all my culture, all my teammates back in the days. And representing the whole country in the biggest stage for baseball is really amazing, because we know how hard it is for us to make it where we are, and to fly out of the country to have a better life or to have a better future. I know they were paying attention. It was a great moment.

Q: What did you think when you watched Mariano Rivera pitch?
A: That I wanted to be on the same field as him. And here I am.

Q: You were a Derek Jeter fan too though, right?
A: Yeah, but whoever got me to watching baseball it was Mariano, knowing that he was a Panamanian. In my head it was like seeing Mariano in the biggest stage and being the guy that he was, for me it was like, “Hey, it’s not impossible.” He was in some rough situations before getting out of Panama as well, so like, “It’s not impossible, you can do it too.”

Q: So he was an inspiration to you.
A: For sure. That’s the guy who got me watching baseball, big league games. That’s the guy who got me rooting for the Yankees. I play infield so I would look up to Jeter.

Q: Have you given Mariano your autograph yet?
A: No (smile), he has given me his though. In the first WBC that I was part of back in 2023. He was there, he threw the first pitch that day and I got a signed ball.

Q: When did the eye block start?
A: I’ve been using eye black for my whole career, minor leagues and even before that. The big leagues I choose one style to use, the two kind of like stripes around my face, that’s the way I go, but before it was just I needed eye black on my face.

Q: Why two stripes now?
A: One day I look in the mirror and I thought it was cool, so I stick with it (smile).

Q: Describe your wife Ana.
A: Good person to have beside me for sure. Has been with me in the toughest moments and in the best moments as well. I know I can rely on her whenever things are not going my way, and I know she’s gonna support me for sure.

Q: Your 5-year-old daughter Analia.
A: She’s wild — just like me, though (smile). She’s very electric. She loves competing as well. She likes to win in everything that we try to do. I’m trying to make her understand that sometimes [you] win, sometimes you lose — she doesn’t like losing though (smile). I have not much answer for that because I don’t like losing either.

Q: What do you think of the U.S. men’s soccer team?
A: They’re playing their game. It’s not like they are adjusting to the other team’s game. They have a plan to go into the game and they’re executing that.

Q: How good at soccer were you?
A: I was decent (smile). I was decent.

Q: Three dinner guests?
A: Jesus, [Lionel] Messi, Abraham from the Bible.

Q: Favorite movie?
A: “Fast and Furious.”

Q: Favorite actor?
A: Paul Walker.

Q: Favorite entertainer?
A: Kevin Hart.

Q: Favorite meal?
A: Arroz con pollo [chicken and rice].

Q: Goals?
A: World Series. Win the World Series.

Q: What would you say to Yankees fans who are worried?
A: We’ll make it through. Some bad moments right now, but goals don’t get achieved without the struggles, or without obstacles.

Q: What’s it like being a Yankee?
A: It’s the best (smile). I love it.

Q: Is it different than you thought?
A: I don’t know how to explain this, but my little man is really happy. ... My younger me is really happy (smile).

Q: You like to play in front of the New York fans?
A: I love it. ... ’Cause they show up and

Rice, Schlittler lead Yanks All-Star nods

THE RICE STUFF: Ben Rice (right) and Cody Bellinger are headed to Philly for the All-Star Game. Charles Wenzelberg (2)

By MARK SANCHEZ

A Yankees team filled with established stars will be represented at the All-Star Game instead by stars both rising and resilient.

A club that features many-time All-Stars such as Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton, Gerrit Cole, Max Fried and Paul Goldschmidt will instead send Cam Schlittler, Ben Rice and Cody Bellinger to Citizens Bank Park on July 14, MLB announced Saturday. Judge, too, was voted in but will not play due to injury.

Schlittler and Rice, the upstart Boston-area pair, were shoo-ins for the honor and can aim even higher, candidates for the league’s Cy Young and MVP, respectively. Both will be attending their first Midsummer Classic.

“It’s special,” Schlittler, who was voted in by the player ballot, said after an 11-4 loss to the Twins in The Bronx. “[Both of us] being from Massachusetts, that’s a great feeling. Being able to share that connection with him. [Rice has] had a great season so far and he deserves it.”

As does Schlittler, who could start for the AL and owns the league’s best ERA (2.08), the second-most strikeouts (123 in 104 innings) and second-best WHIP (0.96). A seventh-round pick out of Northeastern who learned to throw harder and harder, until his stuff was blowing away major league hitters, has arrived.

Schlittler said he would pitch in the game “if it lines up,” but added that the “team comes first.” The Yankees will want to monitor the innings of Schlittler, whom they plan on riding into October.

“We’ll see,” manager Aaron Boone said.

Rice also came out of the Boston area (Cohasset and Dartmouth) and also came out of nowhere, a 12th-round pick whose college career was ruined by COVID but who hit his way through the Yankees system.

After a solid but not sterling first full season in 2025, he has emerged as one of the best hitters in the game (.926 OPS with 24 home runs) and fit nicely next to Judge (when healthy) in the lineup.

“You don’t necessarily come into the season saying, ‘I really want to be on the All-Star team,’ but you can only hope that if you do your best every day and stick to your process and results follow, then maybe you get the chance,” said Rice, who was picked by the commissioner’s office.

Bellinger will make his third trip to the All-Star Game but first since 2019. The 30-year-old has reinvented himself through a non-tender from the Dodgers and a salary dump of a trade from the Cubs and will be an All-Star in his second season as a Yankee and his first of a five-year contract.

Meanwhile, Juan Soto was the only Mets player named an All-Star. Soto, whose .971 OPS entering Saturday led the National League, will start in the outfield for the NL as he makes his fifth All-Star Game appearance.

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After another meltdown, Doval testing Bombers’ patience

By DAN MARTIN

Of the many ugly performances on the Fourth of July in The Bronx, Camilo Doval’s may have been the most telling.

CAMILO DOVAL

The right-hander, acquired at last year’s trade deadline, was knocked around again Saturday in a mind-numbing 11-4 loss to the Twins.

For a second straight outing, the former Giants closer allowed four runs. He was again not helped by his defense, as Jazz Chisholm Jr. booted a fairly routine grounder by Luke Keaschall to lead off the top of the eighth.

Doval took care of the rest of the damage himself.

With one out, he gave up a hit to leadoff hitter Trevor Larnach.

Byron Buxton followed with a sacrifice fly, Kody Clemens an RBI single and Josh Bell a two-run homer.

Aaron Boone noted the issue after the game, as Doval entered having allowed a .951 OPS versus lefties, compared to .728 for his career.

And Doval has actually been more effective against right-handed hitters than he has been in previous seasons.

“His execution against lefties is critical,” the manager said. “That part’s been a struggle. He’s been unlucky at times, but he’s made his mistakes against lefties... Against righties, he continues to throw the ball well.”

Unlike in his previous outing, when he uncharacteristically walked three batters, Doval was done in this time by the three base hits.

On the season — his first he started in The Bronx — Doval has already given up a career-high six homers, all of them in his last $27 \frac{2}{3}$ innings.

So when the Yankees are on the hunt for more bullpen help at this year’s trade deadline, they’ll be looking to avoid similar mistakes to the ones they made a year ago, as both Doval and Jake Bird have been ineffective since joining the Yankees.

The Yankees have stuck with Doval — who has a minor league option remaining and could be sent to Triple-A Scranton/Wilkes-Barre without having to clear waivers — because he has better command than most of the relievers the Yankees have in the minors.

That includes hard-throwing right-hander Yovanny Cruz, who has impressed in his brief opportunities in the majors, particularly in his Tuesday outing against the Tigers, when the right-hander threw two shutout innings.

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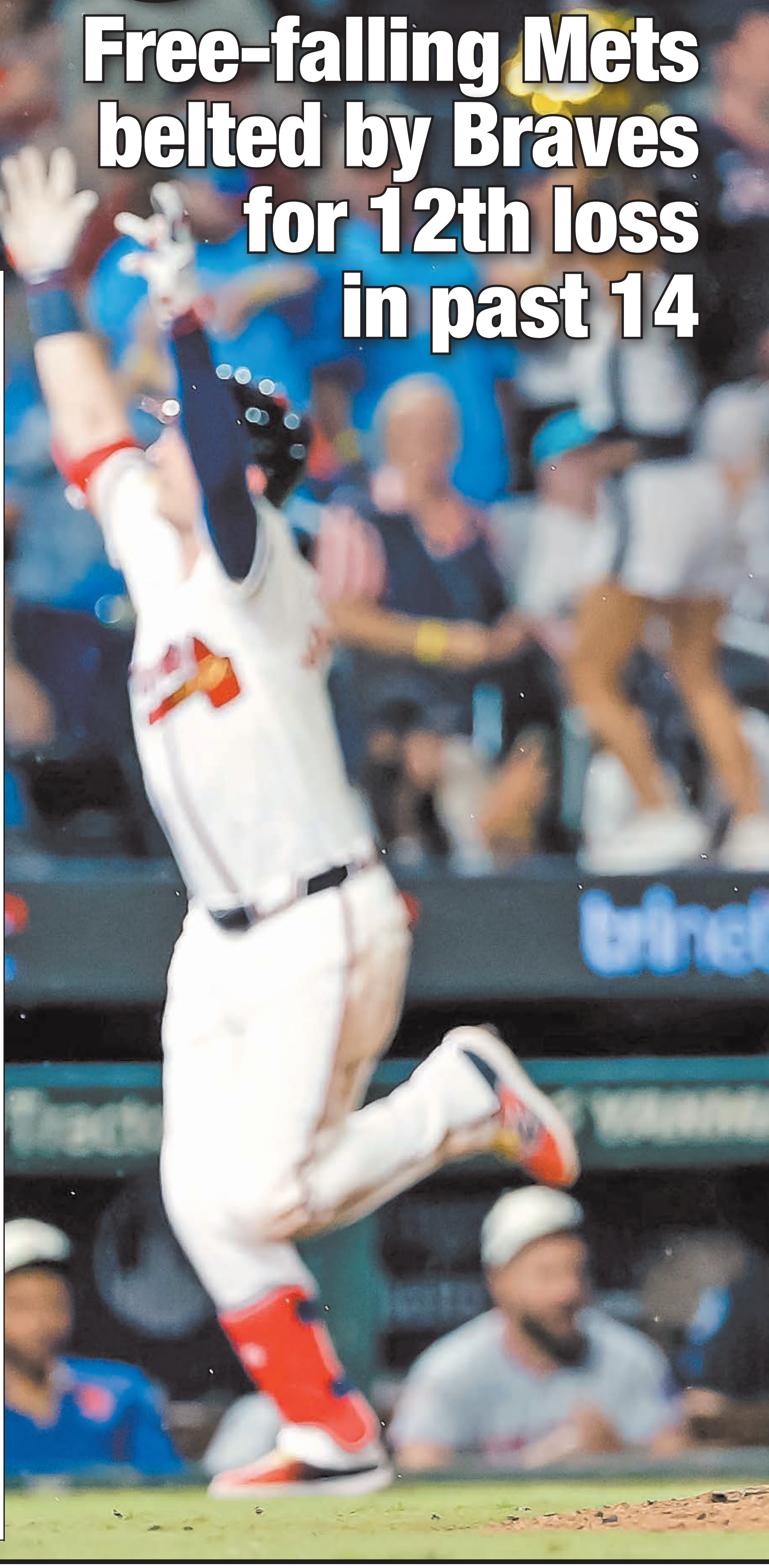
RACING TO THE BOTTOM

Free-falling Mets belted by Braves for 12th loss in past 14



By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — Two-fifty: America's age or the Mets' winning percentage over the past 2 ½ weeks?

Both answers can be correct.

An awful stretch of baseball has turned into a downright race to the bottom of the National League, and the Mets appear well-equipped to win that half-marathon.

Saturday night's scheduled fireworks at Truist Park were preceded by the stink bombs the Mets lobbed onto the field for three hours in a 14-3 loss to the Braves.

The Mets lost for the 12th time in 16 games (there's your .250 winning percentage), but more condensed, they are 2-12 since June 20. Just how low can they go?

"Losing is not enjoyable at all; nobody wants to be a part of it," interim manager Andy Green said.

Only Colorado stood behind them (a half-game worse) in the NL when the day started.

This one was marred by a "run prevention" fiasco: Usually reliable defensively, Tyrone Taylor misplayed a pop-up in the third inning, allowing three gift runs to Atlanta, from which the Mets never recovered.

All the runs were earned, turning Sean Manaea's final line into something of an eyesore: five innings, six runs, six hits one walk and four strikeouts.

"It was definitely a grind of an outing," Manaea said.

It was Manaea's first time allowing more than three earned runs in an appearance since April 29. If the Mets are going to win a game in this four-game series, their best chance might be Sunday, when Nolan McLean is scheduled to start. The road trip won't conclude until Monday, with Freddy Peralta on the mound.

BRAVES	**14**
METS	**3**

Boxscore
Page 58

Eli White's homer in the second produced the game's first run. Manaea recorded two quick outs in the inning before White homered on the eighth pitch of his at-bat, blasting a sweeper over the left field fence.

Manaea's night unraveled in the third, after he plunked Austin Riley to load the bases with two outs. Michael Harris II delivered an RBI single before White hit a pop-up that should have been the third out. Francisco Lindor initially called for the ball as he backpedaled, but ceded to Taylor. As Lindor scurried out of the way, the ball hit off Taylor's glove and dropped (for a generously ruled three-run double), giving the Braves a 5-0 lead.

"The easiest thing to say is I just blew it; can't happen," Taylor said. "Sean is out there working hard, gets a pop-up and I make a bad play. It can't happen."

Taylor started as the center fielder to give the Mets an extra right-handed bat against Chris Sale, leaving A.J. Ewing on the bench.

Mauricio Dubón homered in the fourth to extend the Mets deficit to 6-0. It marked the first time this season that Manaea allowed multiple homers in an outing.

Taylor homered in the fifth — the first blast allowed by Sale in 46 innings (which was the longest active streak by an MLB starting pitcher).

Mark Vientos smashed a two-run homer in the sixth that pulled the Mets to within 6-3.

But the Braves reclaimed the runs in the bottom of the inning against Austin Warren, who surrendered an RBI double to Joey Bart before the Braves extended their lead to 8-3 on Dubón's groundout.

Mike Yastrzemski launched a two-run homer in the seventh against Warren that placed the Mets in a 10-3 hole.

The Mets scored three runs or fewer for a fifth straight game. On this night, they were 1-for-9 with runners in scoring position.

Joey Gerber allowed a two-run homer in the eighth to Austin Riley, continuing the Braves onslaught. Luis Torrens replaced Gerber on the mound and allowed a homer to Harris and a single before recording the final out.

"It's frustrating," Manaea said. "I don't think there is any other word than that. We know we are better."

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WHAT A MESS: Mets pitcher Austin Warren (right) waits as the Braves' Mike Yastrzemski rounds the bases for his two-run home run during the seventh inning Saturday in Atlanta. By then, an eventual 14-3 loss had gotten ugly, pushed in that direction in part by Tyrone Taylor (inset top) and Francisco Lindor failing to prevent a three-run double in the third. AP; Imagn Images

ON DECK: at Braves

Sunday, 12:30 p.m., NBC, WHSQ (880 AM)

RHP Nolan McLean

2026 stats:
5-5, 3.78 ERA

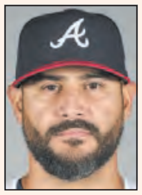
Career vs. ATL:
1-0, 3.27 ERA

Last start:
Tues., at TOR;
6 IP, 5 H, 0 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

35%	19%	17%
Sinker	4-Seamer	Sweeper

LHP Martín Pérez



2026 stats:
6-5, 3.27 ERA

Career vs. NYM:
5-0, 2.94 ERA

Last start:
Tues., vs. STL;
5 IP, 4 ER, 1 K

PITCH BREAKDOWN

32%	32%	23%
Sinker	Changeup	Cutter

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at Braves, 7:15 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
RHP Freddy Peralta vs. RHP

TUESDAY: vs. Royals, 7:10 p.m., SNY, WHSQ
TBD vs. TBD

INJURY REPORT

■ **Jorge Polanco** and **Luis Robert Jr.** are on rehab assignments at Triple-A Syracuse, without a timetable for return. Polanco is rehabbing Achilles bursitis and Robert is rehabbing a lumbar spine disc herniation.

Soto secures starting spot in All-Star Game

By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — One of the few Mets players who has performed to his level of expectations this season is headed to the All-Star Game.

Juan Soto was voted a National League starter for the July 14 game in Philadelphia. He was the only Mets player selected. Soto learned of the honor Saturday before the Mets faced the Braves.

His selection was hardly a surprise. Soto began play with MLB's second-highest OPS (.971) and has carried an underwhelming Mets lineup with 18 homers and 41 RBIs in 69 games, though he missed nearly three weeks in April rehabbing a calf strain.

Soto expressed disappointment last summer when he wasn't selected to the All-Star Game in his first season with the Mets.

"I just fell short last year, and it kind of motivated me that I have got to be better," Soto said. "I have got to be better to be with the best of the best in the league, and this year I came in with a different mentality, and thank God that I made it."

Soto said he's considered participating in the Home Run Derby but will wait on that decision.

"I have got to check where my body's at," he said. "How much I need to recover and be ready for the second half. We have got to think about every situation, and we'll go from there."

Luke Weaver and Huascar Brazobán are the only other Mets players who could have been considered for the All-Star roster based on performance. But both are setup relievers — traditionally a difficult road to selection given the emphasis on starting pitchers and closers. Weaver and Brazobán remain in play as potential replacements on the NL roster.

Last season, the Mets sent Francisco Lindor, Pete Alonso, Edwin Díaz and David Peterson to the All-Star Game.

Soto's selection was his fifth. He's also represented the Nationals, Padres and Yankees in the Midsummer Classic.

"It's always an unbelievable experience, and I expect to have the same thing here," Soto said.

"I have got to thank all the fans in the Dominican Republic; they made it possible. Thanks to the people of New York, too. They really voted a lot. Mets fans are really unbelievable, and I appreciate everything they have done for me these past two years."

Mets notes / Page 62

Hunt in hospice care

By DYLAN SVOBODA

Ron Hunt, the first Mets player to start an All-Star Game, is in hospice care in St. Louis, suffering from multiple illnesses.

Longtime Mets vice president of media relations Jay Horwitz shared the news Saturday, asking fans to keep the 85-year-old Hunt in their thoughts.

"No one played the game harder than Ron Hunt, our first All-Star," Horwitz wrote on Medium. "He would do anything to help win a game."

RON HUNT

Hunt played four seasons for the Mets from 1963-66 and became the first player in team history to start an All-Star Game when he took the field at second base for the National League in the 1964 Midsummer Classic at Shea Stadium.

That season, Hunt hit .303 while receiving some down-ballot NL MVP votes. A year earlier, Hunt had finished second in the NL Rookie of the Year race behind Pete Rose.

In 1966, his final season in a Mets uniform, Hunt made his second All-Star team.

He went on to play eight more big league seasons with the Dodgers, Giants, Expos and Cardinals, finishing his career with 1,429 hits and a reputation as one of the toughest players of his era. Hunt was hit by a pitch 243 times, which is still the sixth most in MLB history.

Horwitz, who now serves as the team historian and vice president of alumni public relations, said he had the "honor and privilege" of meeting Hunt and his family during a visit to Citi Field a few years ago. He treasured their later phone calls.

"Loved hearing his stories about Casey Stengel," Horwitz wrote. "So please think of Ron today. He needs our support."

In 2018, it was revealed that Hunt was dealing with Parkinson's disease.

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TWIN KILLING

High-paid Yanks surrender to upstart Twins at Stadium in sweltering July 4 reversal

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

In a great irony on this 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, it was the Yankees who assumed the role of the British.

TWINS	**11**
YANKEES	**4**

Boxscore Page 58

A group composed of more established professionals with better resources and better pay was nonetheless outwilled and upended July 4, when the underdog Twins provided far more fireworks.

The Yankees were 11-4 losers in The Bronx on a sweltering Saturday in front of 40,156, many of whom removed and swung their shirts late trying to inspire the home team — which coincided with a four-run Twins eighth inning that drained any drama remaining in the Stadium.

The Yankees were buried early by call-up Brendan Beck and late by Camilo Doval, the pair combining to give up four of six Minnesota home runs and nine runs (five earned) in $4\frac{2}{3}$ innings.

As has become a trend during this slide, the Yankees were down immediately. This time Beck — a 2021 second-round pick making his second career major league appearance — allowed three runs in the first (in which he began with a walk, double and home run) and two more in the second.

THE HEAT IS ON: Yankees fans battle the heat as the Bombers continued to melt down, losing eight of their past nine games.

Robert Sabo

The injury replacement for Carlos Rodón only learned Friday that he would be pitching Saturday. He was called up, lit up, then sent down after the game.

"Put us in a hole early, making the defense stand out there for a long time in the first," said Beck, who lasted $3\frac{2}{3}$ innings in which he served up five runs on three homers. "Taking the crowd out of it. Not the way you want to start the game on an exciting day at the yard."

With commemorative patches on a sleeve and the numbers on their backs given a red, white and blue makeover, the Yankees looked a bit different, but they played like the same team that has spiraled for weeks.

Aaron Boone & Co. (49-39) have lost eight of nine and 11 of 14. Their offense has been ailing and awful, having scored just 46 runs in their past 16 games. They have not scored more than five runs in a game since all the way back on June 17.

On Friday they welcomed back Trent Grisham and Ryan McMahon, both of whom played roles in snapping a skid, but a day later the attack stalled in the game's biggest moments.

The Yankees did climb some of the way back from a 6-0 hole, but Doval's flop in the eighth and the offense going 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position ensured they could not complete the comeback.

"With the lineup that we have, I feel like we're more than capable [of escaping early holes]," said Max Schuemann, whose two-run homer in the fifth paired with Cody Bellinger's RBI double brought the Yankees within 6-4. "We've put up 10 runs in one inning at one point this year. ... I know what we're capable of."

The Yankees did have life in the middle innings. Jasson Domínguez put a dent into the deficit with a solo home run in the fourth. The Yankees sent eight hitters to the plate in a three-run fifth.

But that inning ended with Domínguez stranding two. They threatened again in the sixth, when Anthony Volpe (single), Jazz Chisholm Jr. (beautiful bunt single) and Schuemann (walk) loaded the bases with one out.

But a pair of pinch hitters — Amed Rosario against righty Travis Adams and Paul Goldschmidt against lefty Taylor Rogers — could not come through in the Yankees' last and best chance to steal the game.

Manager Aaron Boone turned to Goldschmidt, a lefty masher, despite his entering the at-bat in an 0-for-20 slide.

"I'm going to take Goldie against the lefty there, two outs with them loaded," Boone said. "Our shot to really grab the game."

Life was extinguished in the eighth, when Doval entered a game the Yankees were trailing 7-4 and could not pitch around a Chisholm error that opened the inning.

The Twins sent seven men to the plate and scored four runs on a Byron Buxton sacrifice fly, Clemens single and Josh Bell's second home run of the afternoon.

The Tarps Off crew quickly lost enthusiasm, the revolutions per minute of their shirts fading.

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Montefiore Einstein *Official Hospital of the New York Yankees*

WHAT THE BECK? Brendan Beck reacts on the mound after allowing a home run to the Twins' Kody Clemens in an ugly 11-4 loss at the Stadium on Saturday. Robert Sabo

Montefiore Einstein
Official Hospital of the New York Yankees

Two legendary New York institutions. One team.
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INJURY REPORT

- **Max Fried** (left elbow bone bruise) is expected to throw his second sim game Sunday and build up to around 35 pitches. The next step after sim games would be a rehab assignment.
- **Carlos Rodón** (left elbow inflammation) remains shut down, as he will be for at least a few days, and is expected to receive a PRP injection.

ON DECK

vs. Twins

Sunday, 1:35 p.m., NBC Sports, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Ryan Weathers

2026 stats:
3-6, 4.08 ERA

Career vs. MIN:
1-0, 1.80 ERA

Last start:
Monday vs. DET
1.2 IP, 5 R, 2 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

28%	23%	20%
4-Seamer	Changeup	Sweeper

RHP Joe Ryan

2026 stats:
5-5, 3.61 ERA

Career vs. NYY:
3-2, 3.30 ERA

Last start:
Tuesday at HOU
4.0 IP, 6 H, 6 ER

PITCH BREAKDOWN

45%	14%	12%
4-Seamer	Sweeper	Kn. Curve

UP NEXT

MONDAY: at Rays,
6:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Cam Schlittler vs.
LHP Shane McClanahan

TUESDAY: at Rays,
6:40 p.m., YES, WFAN
RHP Will Warren vs.
LHP Ian Seymour

Sinking Bombers must attack trade market

Jon Heyman

THE TWINS made their annual pilgrimage to The Bronx, briefly boosting the Yankees' spirits like they usually do before surprisingly ruining the July Fourth holiday game at the Stadium.

The Yankees' unlikely 11-4 defeat to the $320M team's perennial patsy — their eighth loss in nine games overall — isn't nearly the worst of the weekend, either. The Yankees' lone victory of the week came Friday, the very day it became clear via a double dose of unexpected, unwanted injury news that the Yankees will need to improve their bullpen and probably even their rotation via deadline trades.

Sources indicate starter Carlos Rodón could be four to six weeks from returning to an MLB mound with elbow inflammation, and star starter Max Fried is possibly still a month away, suddenly putting available starters on their wish list. The Yankees were already perusing the pen market when the 103-mph-throwing pen hopeful Carlos Lagrange was diagnosed with a shoulder injury that could end his season.

The Yankees' third position of interest, which will surprise no one, is catcher. No amount of "great leadership" can fully mitigate that .151 batting average Austin Wells is toting.

There should be plenty of decent rotation options, though not as many good ones for the bullpen or catcher. In what seems counterintuitive, the Twins — whose 47-128 record against the Yankees since 2002 is the worst in any MLB matchup (via YES) — are one of the key teams they need to engage. (See below for all the suggestions.)

You have to remember Twins players perform fine against other teams. It's just against the Yankees they generally go to pieces. Joe Ryan, the Twins' excellent starter, and hard-hitting catcher Ryan Jeffers would solve 67 percent of the Yankees' issues.

The Bombers have real opportunity here since they should be the best team in the worst American League in years, even if they haven't looked it. They need to be as aggressive as last year, when GM Brian Cashman picked up David Bednar (the closer), Ryan McMahon (starting 3B), Amed Rosario (vital backup) and José Caballero (who appears to be the starting SS, at least for today).

None of the other top contenders in the AL are especially imposing, from the Rays, who lead the Yankees by some miracle, to the White Sox, an even bigger miracle, to the Guardians, whose payroll is the lowest in MLB — less than the combined salaries of four players on the Yankees' injured list (Aaron Judge, Fried, Giancarlo Stanton and Rodón make a combined $108M).

The deadline is a Cashman specialty. But at the risk of being presumptuous, we'll provide suggestions here, as follows.

1. They should target two-time Cy Young winner Tarik Skubal, Giants ace Logan Webb or Ryan for the rotation, but if those prices are too high for their liking, they can consider Reid Detmers (117 K's), Michael Wacha (3.31 ERA), Robbie Ray (3.39 ERA), Casey Mize (2.63 ERA), Freddy Peralta (sixth in Cy voting last year) or Clay Holmes (2.39 ERA before suffering a fractured leg).

The Yankees, flush with starters to start the year, need another now, although they may accept someone lower than this list after again having to employ rookie Brendan Beck, who was tattooed for three homers in 3 ²⁄₃ innings Friday.

They will make a call on Skubal, but the Yankees aren't usually anxious to trade top prospects for rental players, even great rental players. The Giants originally handed the Yankees a list of available players that didn't include Webb, and they've publicly suggested he isn't going anywhere. But it's worth a try.

New Twins ownership isn't anxious to trade stars. So the Yankees may need to look at second- or even third-tier guys.

Ray is hot, having allowed no earned runs over his past 22 ¹⁄₃ innings, and the pending free agent should be dealt. Wacha is having another nice under-the-radar season, too.

Sonny Gray is great but has a full no-trade clause and likes the Yankees even less than his Red Sox teammate Aroldis Chapman, who doesn't like the Yankees at all.

2. The relief market looks historically weak, but they should consider bringing back Mets setup man Luke Weaver, who hasn't allowed a run since April. Others to consider include Antonio Senzatela (8-0 with the rebuilding Rockies), Brooks Raley (2.32 ERA), Pete Fairbanks (102 career saves), Ryan Zeferjahn (12.4 K's per 9), Anthony Bender (0.96 WHIP thanks to his own Air Bender) and Kenley Jansen (485 saves, third all time) among others.

Weaver's 22 straight scoreless outings make him the top choice here, especially since neither side wants a third time in The Bronx for Chapman. Jansen and Fairbanks could use a change of scenery after rough starts in new digs.

3. Jeffers is the logical catching target since Hunter Goodman probably isn't possible.

It's hard to imagine the Rockies would deal Goodman, who's second in MLB with 27 home runs. Jeffers, a free agent, is a very nice backup plan. He just started a rehab assignment after missing several weeks with a broken hamate but was tearing it up before he went out. His .949 OPS is about double Wells' .483 mark. So that would be quite an improvement.

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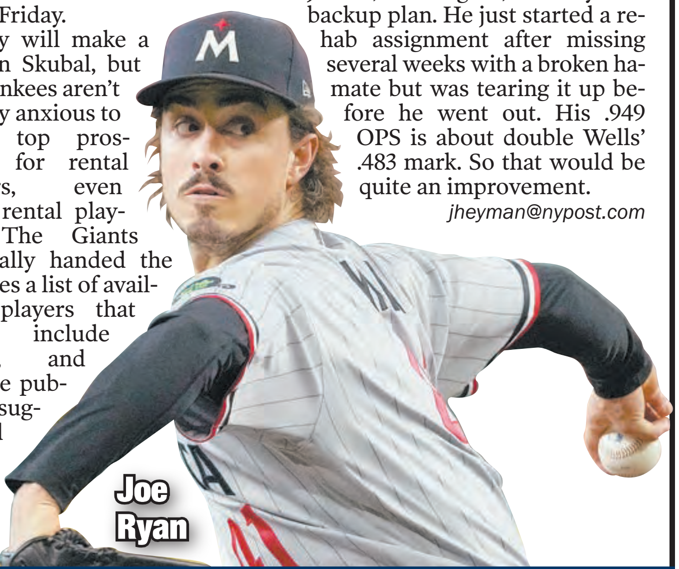

Joe Ryan

More Yanks / P. 79, 62

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RED, WHITE & BLUES

YANKS TURN IN JULY FOURTH DUD BUT 4 GET ASG NOD

PAGES 82-83, 79, 62

SUNDAY
NEW YORK POST
Sports

JULY 5, 2026

U.S. needs keeper to play game of his life to beat Belgium

FREESE THE DAY

In 2014, U.S. star Tim Howard played one of the great all-time goalkeeper games in the Round of 16 vs. Belgium (inset). The Americans would love a repeat performance, this time by Matt Freese, as Team USA faces Belgium in the Round of 16, again, Monday in Seattle. **CANNIZZARO / PAGES 74-75**

Getty Images (2)

SUMMER STOCK WATCH

DIAWARA AMONG KNICKS TO EYE IN VEGAS / PAGE 68

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